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Key Developments

Yeltsin, Filatov Discuss Election Campaign

LD2011135095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin discussed the course of the election campaign with chief of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov on Monday. Their meeting was held in the Central Clinical Hospital where the President is undergoing treatment.

The concept of national and regional policy was also discussed, the presidential press service reported. Interaction of the presidential structures and federal bodies with religious organisations was also discussed.

Filatov told the President that the Russian Academy of Sciences begins preparing the strategy of Russia's development aimed at the implementation of Russia's national interests.

Filatov spoke about the results of the meeting with members of the Association of chiefs of autonomous districts at which legal reform in districts had been discussed. The President instructed Filatov to visit a number of autonomous districts and to participate in drafting a programme of legal reform in autonomous districts.

Chernomyrdin Rejects Fedorov's Criticisms

MM2011143995 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Answer by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to question from unidentified journalist under the "The Premier Answers" rubric; place and date not given: "Common Sense Against Populism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Question] Viktor Stepanovich, your opponents, in particular ["Forward, Russia!" leader] Boris Fedorov, claim that in the three years of your premiership the government has not solved a single problem. What would you say the government has got to its credit?

[Chernomyrdin] First of all I will say straightway that I regard such statements as not the most honest and not the cleanest move by my opponents in the increasingly fierce election struggle. In particular, I will never believe that someone like Boris Fedorov, an informed financier with a grasp of economics, is unaware of what the government has done in those spheres and fields in which he is reputed to be a specialist.

Whether our opponents like it or not, it remains a fact, and statistics eloquently confirm this, that the "donkeywork" to extricate the country from economic disaster has been basically completed. What lies ahead is a stage in which there are no losers: production growth, and an increase in the real incomes of enterprises and citizens. The desire of our competitors to take advantage of favorable conditions and take over power is entirely natural. They are trying to grab the footboard of the last car of a train that is pulling away from them and dreaming of at least a stint at the controls. And — completely contrary to common sense — pursuing their own populist line, these same parties and movements are ruthlessly and unthinkingly torpedoing the 1996 budget submitted by the government to the State Duma, which is one of the main instruments promoting the stabilization and upsurge of the Russian economy.

The fundamental difference between the current situation and that of a few years ago is precisely the fact that we are now passing through an extremely important point in Russia's economy: The slump in production has been stopped and industry is not merely surviving but is beginning to get onto its feet. In July, for instance, production showed an increase of 2 percent over July last year.

Of course, some people may be unimpressed by these figures. But in my view, we must always remember that even slight growth is greatly preferable to any slump. And it should be particularly emphasized that the stabilization in industry is taking place in conditions of a slowing in the increase in prices. What lies behind this modest figure of 2 percent is the formation of a qualitatively new economic organization of society.

Unlike Boris Fedorov and certain other critics, we are not promising Russia immediate prosperity if we come to power. It is impossible to achieve universal prosperity in 500 or even 550 days. But the task of reorganizing economic and financial levers and launching market mechanisms that will ensure the upsurge and stable development of Russian industry is one that has already been to a considerable extent fulfilled by our government. And it will be a great pity if the machinery that has been set in motion and has already proved its effectiveness is thoughtlessly scrapped. New experiments on one-sixth of the Earth are impermissible and simply dangerous for those who live in Russia.

KRO Appeal Launches Referendum Campaign

MM2011152795 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 4

["Appeal to the Country from the Congress of Russian Communities Congress" signed by Yuriy Skokov, Aleksandr Lebed, and Sergey Glazyev; appeal is published on section of the page devoted to advertisements]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrades, citizens, brothers!

Russian people!

The Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] is campaigning in the State Duma elections to ensure that the legislative assembly contains not unworthy people, not venal politicians, but people who are on your side and will not deceive you. We are waging this campaign together with you, and together we will win!

The people need to have their representatives in Russia's Federal Assembly, but that is not enough. Russia's needs and concerns are acute, threats to the Russian people are intensifying, and the present government is heeding neither your voices nor the demands of the law.

Today the foundations of the life, daily routine, and property of every family in Russia are under threat. Our people will cope with these threats if they acquire legal control over state power.

Power in Russia must be firmly based upon the people, upon the criteria of people's policy. Only then will we be proud of our state and will Russia once again begin to be respected.

The Congress of Russian Communities was the first to call for this, and you supported that call. You responded to it — with your votes, letters, and instructions from everywhere, from all regions of Russia. Russia's honest people are demanding that the living standard of the entire population and nothing else be the authorities' constant main concern and the criterion of the effectiveness of the government's work.

A worthy living standard means an appropriate material income, it means access to cultural and spiritual treasures that open the way to personal freedom for people, and it means a level of security that guarantees each person their main right in their own country — the right to life and health. When the authorities' activity leads to a decline in the people's living standard and to their degradation and extinction, that government must bear direct and strict responsibility for its actions. This rule must be enshrined in the constitution and become a most important, inviolable state norm. But how can the government be forced to heed and act on the concerns of every home, every family?

Under Russian Federation law, a REFERENDUM alone, along with elections, is the highest direct expression of the will of Russia's people. In the name of the law the people are entitled to incorporate their demands in the constitution. In the light of this, the Congress of Russian Communities is putting forward your main demands for an ALL-RUSSIA REFERENDUM. Once we have collected 2 million signatures in support of this initiative, we will force the authorities to schedule a REFERENDUM. By answering "YES" IN THE REFERENDUM and obtaining the legal right to protection of the person and of income for our families, we will bring the authorities under the control of our common interests, under the control of all Russia's peoples, welded into an inviolable union.

The congress of the Congress of Russian Communities electoral association supports the action group's proposal regarding the start of a campaign to collect signatures for the holding of an ALL-RUSSIA REFERENDUM. Comrades, join in the work to hold a nationwide REFERENDUM. Place the authorities under the strict control of the people's interests!

It is now up to us all to decide what kind of a country we are going to live in.

Russia is with us!

There is nobody except us in the KRO and you! [Nikto, KROme nas s vami!]

[Signed] Yuriy Skokov

Aleksandr Lebed
Sergey Glazyev

Women of Russia Leader Holds News Conference

LD1711225195 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Recorded remarks by Yekaterina Lakhova, leader of the parliamentary faction of Women of Russia, at a news conference in Moscow on 17 November; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Women of Russia are against changing the law on elections and lowering the 5 percent barrier, the parliamentary faction's leader, Yekaterina Lakhova, told journalists today. Women of Russia are confident that they themselves will cross this hurdle and even expect to strengthen their influence in the next Duma, although it has been quite significant in this one. Experts think that this is connected with the policy of strict pragmatism which the women have adopted in the Duma, not showing clear sympathy to any of the men's factions.

[Lakhova, addressing news conference] It makes no difference to me whether Zyuganov or Zhirinovskiy or Gaydar are standing at the podium. What is very important to us is the contents of a law itself. Sometimes we have to apologize because in order to get a law adopted we go to talk to Zhirinovskiy, we go to the communists, we go to Russia's Choice.

[Correspondent] Lakhova said that it was quite difficult to work with Zhirinovskiy who changes his opinions every five minutes. But the women have managed to work on him by tickling his pride. Despite general conceptions of the gentle sex, Women of Russia do not shun harsh decisions. For example, Lakhova thinks that a state of emergency needs to be introduced in Chechnya and Dudayev's headquarters bombed.

[Lakhova] If we know where Dudayev's headquarters are, then they should have ceased to exist a long time ago. At least that's what we think, the Women of Russia faction, I don't know what the men of Russia think.

[Correspondent] Lakhova thinks that modern day politics in Russia has a male persona and many mistakes are connected with this.

[Lakhova] This government is a men's club and has a male persona like all the resolutions it adopts; the president's administration has a male persona; if our faction didn't make up 5 percent then parliament would have a male persona too. After all God created man and woman.

[Correspondent] In order to restore justice approximately a third of places in all branches of power need to be given to women. Otherwise, Lakhova thinks, politics will not have a social orientation. In connection with this, Women of Russia are planning to put forward their candidate in the presidential elections, too. It should be said that they don't expect to win but think it an important tactical move. [video shows news conference]

Reportage on Television, Radio Coverage of Elections

Goryacheva Interviewed on CPRF

LD1711211695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1540 GMT on 17 November, in its "Election '95" program, carries an eight-minute interview with Svetlana Patrovna Goryacheva, a Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] representative, by Nina Berdyakova. Berdyakova recalls that three years ago, Goryacheva was deputy chairwoman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and Boris Yeltsin was chairman. In minutes of a Supreme Soviet session, Goryacheva was recorded as saying: "I can only tremble at the thought that you, Boris Nikolayevich, will become the president of the Russian Federation. The president embodies the honor and dignity of his people. But you embody something entirely different. You will stop at nothing to win power." Berdyakova says that she has since languished in obscurity. She as if there there any regrets, and goryacheva says she has not, and would do it all again.

After answering a question about women in politics, Goryacheva moves on to morality in society. The future of any society lies in its younger generation, she says, and noting that she is currently a deputy town procurator, she mentions a case involving violent juvenile delinquents. She notes that when asked to show remorse for what he had done, one of them said it was nothing unusual, just what he saw every day on television. "So I would like to turn to you, Boris Nikolayevich, to you, Naina Iosifnova, to you, Viktor Stepanovich", she continues. "Why is there so little morality, kindness, and warmth in the mass media today? Why have Russian movies, Russian songs, those wonderful Russian and other nations' folk stories, disappeared from our television screens? Why have we ripped the spiritual core, the font of morality, from the soul of our younger generation? Why are you moulding them today into cosmopolitans ignorant of their roots?" Do we not realize we are breeding a generation that prefers to settle its differences with firearms and fists instead of through the law? she asks. This is the environment in which Boris Yeltsin's children and grandchildren will have to live, or at least observe from their plush, security-fenced dachas, she states.

Goryacheva says in conclusion: "Dear compatriots and dear people of Russia! I realize that the hearts of many of you are full of bitterness, apathy and indifference. And not surprisingly. For how many times have you been so brazenly deceived by these rulers? You want to withdraw into your shells, perhaps confine yourselves to your kitchens, apartments or offices. But you should remember that no one can save himself when the ship goes down, not even those in the most luxurious of cabins. Russia has seen dark days before now. But it has always emerged reinvigorated, splendid, and illuminated. And that was because during such privations we, the Russian people, were aided by our devotion, love for our country, collectivism and ability to unite. I want to say to you today, to everyone who will vote: do not believe those who are tainted by their complicity in this ruling regime, those who gorge themselves there, who make opulent campaign television slots for huge sums of money that they might have taken away from you today. Take a close look at the opposition. Look Gennadiy Zyuganov in the face. And Aman Tuleyev. And Petr Romanov. And Svetlana Savitskaya. Viktor Ilyukhin, and many, many others. As I did three years ago, I say to you: Do not make this mistake again. If you do not, then this cold winter will certainly be followed by a warm summer in our splendid and beloved Russia!"

'Elections '95' Airs LDPR Program

LD1711235795

[FBIS Editorial Report] St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 15 November, in its "Elections '95" program, carries a 15-minute recorded feature presenting the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]. The video begins with shots of the Kremlin, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy walking down a corridor, and the Russian crest. An unidentified narrator then says: "Great Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Patriotism and Russian interests have become key concepts in the current election campaign. Everyone protects Russians today, all state figures, all Derzhava people, even those who several years ago stood at Yeltsin's side and celebrated the victory over the so-called putschists in 1991 and prepared the Belovezhskaya change in status. It was only later that Rutskoy, Skokov, Baburin and others, who did not share power with Yeltsin, became his opponents. Then, in 1991 and in early 1992 they walked together striking blows one after the other against the country."

Captioned "LDPR" in gold lettering in one of the top corners of the screen, the video shows in the background an explosion, followed by the USSR Congress of People's Deputies and a building site. A sequence of shots of figures is shown in the foreground, including Raisa Gorbachev, Anatoliy Lukyanov, Aleksandr Yakovlev, Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev. The words, "The LDPR presents" then appear full screen, followed by video of a communist parade in central Moscow.

"There were only a few deputies who voted against ratifying the Belovezhskaya accords," the narrator continues, "even though there were a very large number of communists in the Supreme Soviet at the time. Why were they silent? But there was someone who was not silent then."

The words "Author Zhirinovskiy" appear full screen in black lettering on a white background. The video shows Zhirinovskiy kissing soldiers on the cheek, embracing a priest, addressing a rally and taking part in a march.

Music plays in the background while the narrator says: "Zhirinovskiy was the very first person in the country to utter the word Russian [russkiy]. He was the first to say, I will defend Russians. He was the first to utter the word province [guberniya]. He is the only prominent politician to have supported the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] program in August 1991. Several years ago Zhirinovskiy warned about the explosive situation in the south of Russia. Few people understood his book "The Last Dash South"' in 1993, but thanks to Groznyy, many pages of this book are now being read differently.

"It is possible to love Zhirinovskiy and it is possible to hate him, but no one can deny his ability to foresee how events will turn out, to quickly evaluate a situation, to divine the true intentions of politicians. The ideological baggage of today's patriotic and so-called centrist blocs are the edited thoughts of Zhirinovskiy. Zhirinovskiy used to say what everyone would be repeating tomorrow, having removed of course certain characteristics of the author's style. These are some television reminders for those who may be in doubt."

The video shows a special edition of the "Who's Who" program on 10 June 1991, which featured the candidates for Russian president in the 12 June elections. The participants were Vadim Bakatin, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Albert Makashov, Nikolay Ryzhkov and Aman Tuleyev. The presenter says that unfortunately Boris Yeltsin refused to take part in the program.

Zhirinovskiy was the first to speak. He said: "I take the floor with pleasure, but cannot pass over your comment that one candidate is missing from the round table. As I think that millions of television viewers are watching across the country in order to see all six candidates. If he is now flying to Syktyvkar on an evening flight, he is showing the deepest disrespect for all the millions of viewers. I want to promise them that if I become Russian president I will never allow such disrespect to the peoples of our republic.

"And now onto the most important part of the political program. People have already talked about a transitional period; I do not agree. Russia has been going through a transitional period throughout the 20th century. It is time to put an end to all transitional periods in this country. We need to begin to end this perestroyka, which has led us finally into a dead end.

"The most important and most painful question in this country is the national one. So I will be straight and open about this and put the Russian question first, because half the population of this country is Russian, 155 million Russians who are now treated in the most oppressive and insulting way; they are the nation most spat upon. Its name in this transitional period of the 20th century has been driven to its knees. And while Russians are on their knees, there will be nothing...[pauses] The firepower of this state will be respected and everything will end in failure, death, civil war. We, none of us, want the Chernobyl that happened four years ago to become a political Chernobyl, and all elements are already in place for this.

"The most important thing is to resolve the national question gradually within the framework of new economic policy and to refuse national-territorial divisions, and to return to what there was in Russia so that the transitional period will soon be over, and we can return to what there used to be and what is praised in international practice. That is only territorial divisions; our state should consist of 89-90 provinces with a population of 3-4 million people, 300 million people should live on a territory of 22 million square km.

"We need to return to the old name of our state, Russia [Rossiya]. Russia is a union state, federal, but it is not a federation of republics, autonomies and other national state formations. It is a federation of territories, 80-90 provinces. And a result of this is a simple plan for governing the state, a new administrative structure: Villages choose village elders; in towns a mayor is head of the town; in the provinces a governor in the provinical government; and in the center of Russia, Moscow, one president, one central government, one Supreme Soviet or parliament, as you wish. With such a structure the state will be cheaper, more reliable, and the national question will definitely be resolved in the spheres of culture, education, in the provinces. This principle of division of the state rules out once and for all the very idea that any part of the state, at any moment, should break away.

"We have not correctly understood the principle of the right of nations to self-determination. This principle does not mean at all the creation of a new state. New states are created only as a result of war. If someone wants to begin a war, and war is being waged already in some places, and create a state, then they must be responsible for starting a new war on the territory of our state.

"So I mean that we must finish with the transitional period, finish by the path of elections, and this path is neither socialism nor capitalism as they are defined, because the population is weary. Those in government do not know and do not want to explain what they want, continue to deceive, continue to curse, continue to act out a political show before us. Some do not like Stalin, some Khruschev, some Brezhnev, some stagnation, perestroyka, an artifical formula has now been dreamed up, it turns out that Russia opposes the center, or the center Russia. It is the latest false deception, you are the participants in this show and they are up above, in the Kremlin and the Russian Parliament, and before you they are acting out the last phase of this political comedy which will end as a tragedy.

"And the most important thing are the people who are not among us now, but flying to Syktyvkar. They are afraid to appear here because they would have to answer for the death of our state, 1,000-year-old Russia, for the destruction of the economy, culture and for this humiliation to which the Russian people, the Russian nation, have been subjected for the whole of this 20th century. So I want to say again — without resolving correctly the national question we will get nowhere. Only this, refusing national state divisions and having only territorial divisions, and then we will develop and turn into a European, civilized state.

"We are again today a country that shakes the world. We already shook the world for 10 days in October 1917, now for 20 days in which we are electing a president we are shaking the world. This is intolerable."

The presenter interrupts Zhirinovskiy, but he continues: "Respected Russians, Citizens of Russia, listen carefully: During the first 20 days of my presidency I will issue only four edicts; the first will revoke the instruction signed by Yeltsin and Silayev on 23 May this year, No. 513, about curtailing all social programs in Russia. They have no money. And when he is elected president he will forget all his promises and rob you again. I will revoke this instruction on curtailment.

"Second, I promise to return the old prices which were current in the country before 1 April this year. This edict on raising prices will be revoked. This robbery will be stopped from the time I take on the duties of president of Russia.

"I know that you want the guilty to be punished for the situation we find ourselves in. I will create a special committee to combat corruption, especially in the higher echelons of power and all senior figures will be brought to book including for breaking the electoral law and for exceeding the funds that were allocated for this election campaign. When a candidate even breaks the law on elections it means that he cannot be president if even before being elected he began to break it.

"And the fourth decree will be the full implementation of all edicts of the president of Russia. I mean that if Yeltsin wins the election, then within six months or a year there will be civil war or a military coup in this country. That is what awaits you if I do not win the election."

The following captions appear at the bottom of the screen, "Discussion of candidates for president of Russia on 10 June 1991", "We apologize for the poor quality of video material, the recording was kept only in domestic video libraries, it has been confiscated from state archives," and "Two days remained before B.N. Yeltsin's election as Russian Federation president."

The video then shows a couple sitting up in bed watching television. The woman is wearing bright pink lipstick, has her hair in curlers and is eating something out of a large jar while the man is wearing a white undershirt. Their television screen shows Brezhnev addressing a party meeting. The woman says "We've had that." Gorbachev is shown addressing a Congress of People's Deputies and the man responds "I'm sick of that". Zhirinovskiy is then shown telling a rally, "We will begin to live in peace, we have enough towns and housing." The couple respond in unison, "Now that's good," and kiss noisily on the lips.

A full-screen caption "The LDPR presents" appears again. The narrator says: "The mass media imply every day that the Liberal Democratic Party is devoted to the ideas of violence. At the same time it is the LDPR who came out in favor of a broad amnesty for those who took part in the events of August 1991 and October 1993. Zhirinovskiy understood very well that persecution of the country's former leaders could be a prologue to more widespread repressions."

The video shows Zhirinovskiy announcing "We have amnestied everyone, freedom for all Russians, today is a holiday for Russia." He is shown in a crowded room. A caption reads: "Tourists' House, 23 February 1994."

A full screen caption follows saying "Amnesty. Zhirinovskiy is shown addressing an election meeting in Mineralnyye Vody. He says: "October 1993. Another major crisis. We did not takes sides. Why? Because there were violations of the Constitution on both sides; arms were used on both sides, violation on both sides, nighttime activities on both sides. They did everything at night. How did it end? You are seeing it now. What was it? It was civil war. We opposed this. I telephoned the Kremlin and offered my services as a mediator; telephoned the White House, they knew about this, but they were irreconcilable. Each one of them wanted to win forgetting that Russia was behind them and that they should not be retaining their places but treating the situation so that we have a better life. It ended with some killed, others not overthrown and a third in prison. I always promise when I meet voters that in the new parliament, the State Duma, we will definitely demand that they be released from prison. They should not be in prison."

The narrator continues by asking what will happen to ordinary citizens, if even deputies are thrown into prison. During negotiations with the democratic factions on adopting the law, the democrats thought that it would not be in the LDPR's interests to have those involved in the October 1993 events released as they could become the liberals' political competitors, the narrator said. "But the interests of the country are always higher than tactical, temporary considerations."

Zhirinovskiy is shown telling the Duma, "We forgive everyone and everyone forgives us." Over video of the Duma the narrator says that very few of those amnestied had thanked Zhirinovskiy for his support. He is again shown addressing parliament, "We have achieved what no one has done in Russian history, not the last Russian emperor Nikolay II, nor Lenin nor Stalin nor Brezhnev nor Gorbachev, a universal, political amnesty."

The video ends as it began, with shots of the Kremlin, Zhirinovskiy walking along a corridor, and the Russian crest. A male voice says, "We need a great Russia. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy."

ORT Broadcasts LDPR Commercial

LD2011225195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1838 GMT on 20 November carries a 14-second commercial by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]. It opens with the words on screen: "This is a political advert." The commercial shows a pioneer wearing a red pioneer tie and holding a hen. While making a pioneer salute, he recites the rhyming lines: "Every pioneer knows that the LDPR is an example to everyone!" The commercial continues with a close-up of a hen, and the message: "This is a political advert" is displayed again.

Independent Candidates Explain Views

LD2011184295

[FBIS Editorial Report] St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 17 November airs a 15-minute election broadast by four speakers, all independent candidates to the Duma, who put forward the views of the Independent Candidates' bloc.

Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Fedorov, chairman of the Duma subcommittee on economic security and the bloc's chairman, begins by criticizing the little that has been achieved so far by the current Duma. "These parties take no responsibility and the Duma takes no responsibility. So, as no one takes responsibility in the Duma, no one takes responsibility in the Government or in the upper echelons of federal power as a whole. No one takes responsibility for anything. Everyone is occupied with his own personal matters, including the party blocs which entered the Duma," Fedorov states.

Fedorov goes on to say that independent candidates have come forward in all 225 electoral districts because they realize no one is taking responsibility. He adds: "Nothing unites them; they are united by the single fact that they have been put forward as independent candidates by specific voters, and are responsible toward them." Fedorov explains that the bloc was created because the electoral law makes it difficult for independent candidates to stand. The bloc has no central core, as its candidates support the electoral program of their own constituencies.

Ye.I. Kirichenko, identified by screen caption as president of the Ayaks company, says the independents are opposed to people being divided by their political affiliation. He says all the independent candidates are committed to working hard for their electorate.

Ye.M. Zaytsev, identified by screen caption as cofounder of the St. Petersburg social fund for suffering investors, stresses that the bloc supports laws on the protection of investors' and shareholders' rights, on the protection of the rights of citizens, on the responsibility of the Russian Government and all its members, on administrative responsibility for complaints, and on guaranteeing free, standard housing and on a basic subsistence income.

V.I. Reshetov, identified by screen caption as head of the energy system control directorate, says the independents believe that people must not be prevented from living and working.

In conclusion, Fedorov answers a viewer's question presented to him in written form. A pensioner asks which party the bloc's members support, so Fedorov explains again the bloc's concept of independence.

Savitskiy on Christian Democratic Union

LD2011230595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1930 GMT on 20 November broadcasts a 30-minute election interview with Vitaliy Savitskiy, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union-the Christians of Russia, by correspondent Igor Chernyavskiy. Chernyavskiy begins with the following question:

"How can Christianity be connected with politics, since it is well known that politics is a dirty business and the feeling is probably that Christians, believers, should not go into politics? How did you happen to go into politics, and how can you reconcile politics with the fact that you are a believer?"

Savitskiy first thanks the people for enabling him to get this far and stand for election. He then answers the question and explains why Christians are standing. He says:

"We Christians bear responsibility before the Lord God for ourselves, for our families, and for those close to us, for those who are beside us. In bearing this responsibility, we will answer to God for what happens in our country. And, of course, if the Lord God acts through us Christians then he must send us to where the fate of the state is decided.

"We are saying: enough is enough. Christians have had enough of being the power within society. Christians must be at the head of society, Christians with the morals and principles on which Russian society is built, and the principles on which our statehood was built. We must come and say no to evil. We must say no to depravity. We must say no to extortion from old men. We must say enough of this oppression of widows, old men, women, and children. We must say every man has to have the right to work. We must say to people: look about us. This is all our fatherland. This is all our home, for which we bear responsibility. We bear responsibility before the Lord God and we must not evade this responsibility."

Throughout the remainder of the program Savitskiy speaks at length about the past repression of Christians, including himself and his family, and Christians' fearlessness in the face of any kind of repression. He also deals with crime, which he said is caused by a lack of general morality. Christians do not commit crimes and Christians with their morals and principles are the only people who can deal with crime, Savitskiy concludes.

Election Guidelines

Abdulatipov Addresses Election Roundtable Discussion

MM2011140895 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Letter from R. Abdulatipov, cochairman of roundtable discussion organized by the Conciliation Commission for the Implementation of the Social Accord Treaty, to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Chief Editor V.V. Chikin: "Letter to the Editorial Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Chief Editor V.V. Chikin:

Esteemed Valentin Vasilyevich!

On 14 October 1995 questions concerning the present campaign in the country for the possible postponement of the State Duma elections were discussed within the framework of the Conciliation Commission for the Implementation of the Social Accord Treaty "roundtable" at my initiative as its cochairman.

In the opinion of its participants, both the position of the Russian Federation Supreme Court and the many seemingly disparate articles in the mass media by political scientists and experts essentially put the elections' legitimacy in doubt.

This campaign's aim is obvious to us: To prepare the ground for a repudiation of the election results and to review them in accordance with the alignment of deputies elected to the State Duma of the sixth [as published] convocation. As a result, not only will enormous resources and efforts be wasted on the elections, but political conflict within society will increase and become more bitter, and democracy and its basic mechanism — nationwide elections — will finally become discredited.

The "roundtable" participants saw it as their duty not to allow the campaign to discredit the elections to develop fully and still more not to allow the idea of their cancellation or of a possible review of their results to be foisted on people.

Representatives of 26 parties, movements, and electoral blocs participated in the discussion. The "roundtable" participants adopted a joint statement (attached). I think that this agreed document should become available to as many members of the general public as possible.

Yours respectfully,

[Signed] Cochairman of the Roundtable R. Abdulatipov

Roundtable Opposes Election Postponement

MM2011134595 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Statement by participants in roundtable discussion held by the Conciliation Commission for the Implementation of the Treaty on Social Accord on 14 November: "Statement by Roundtable Participants: Postponing Elections Will Undermine the People's Trust"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We, the leaders of parties, movements, and electoral blocs taking part in the State Duma elections on 17 December 1995; representatives of federal organs of legislative and executive power of the Russian Federation and its components; lawyers; political scientists; and sociologists, are concerned at the discussion under way in our society regarding the possible postponement of the Duma elections.

Committed to the ideas of democracy and its supreme value — the power of the people,

relying on the Russian Federation Constitution and the Law on the Elections to the State Duma,

and seeking nationwide accord,

we consider that the atmosphere recently whipped up over the upcoming State Duma elections poses a serious threat to the degree of public consolidation of the branches of power and leading political forces achieved in the country since the preceding elections and the referendum on the Constitution. We see it as our duty to prevent such a development of events and the weakening of those democratic foundations which are becoming, with great difficulty, part of the country's political life and the Russian state system.

We regard the elections as a key element and support structure of the democratic state system.

In this context we deem it essential to state the following:

1. The postponement of the elections, whatever reasons may guide those who advocate that decision, will substantially weaken and even undermine the faith of a large section of citizens in all the institutions of state power, many parties and electoral associations, and politicians. The soundness and depth of the democratic transformations in our country will be questioned not just inside Russia, but outside it too.

2. Russia is in dire need of civil accord, which is inconceivable without observance of the Constitution and the laws. Postponing the elections will clearly be regarded by political circles and the public as an act which plays into the hands of those contenders for seats in the State Duma who lack appreciable support among voters. Legal process and the law will be sacrificed to political intrigue. This will only deepen the split in society, sow distrust and discord in relations among parties and movements, and breed apathy and cynicism among voters.

3. We are far from idealizing the Law on Elections to the State Duma, whose flaws are pointed out by those advocating postponing the elections. However, it should not be forgotten that it represents a compromise, a balance of interests between social groups, political forces, and the institutions of state power which was achieved at the cost of considerable effort. Any attack on this law entailing a revision of its foundations and the postponement of the election date will produce more political drawbacks and damage and will in no way strengthen the Duma's position as one of the chambers of the representative organ of state power.

4. The events of recent years have convincingly shown that society cannot be motivated to engage in creative work by confrontation, finagling, and flouting of the laws, even if they are not as perfect as we would wish. Russia is tired of confrontation and upheavals. The State Duma elections must deliver a powerful boost to

improvement of the social atmosphere rather than acting as a slow-burning fuse which destroys peace and accord in the country.

That is why we urge the citizens of the Russian Federation, prospective State Duma deputies, and electoral associations and blocs to allow nothing to happen during the elections which would lead to the violation of the principle of equal legal conditions governing election activity and equal electoral rights enjoyed by all participants in the election campaign. The election campaign and the computation of its results must be open and honest.

The participants in the roundtable discussion urge all political forces and voters to refrain from questioning the obvious fact that the legal and political prerequisites exist in the country to hold completely legitimate and free democratic election of deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, Second Convocation, on the date specified by the law.

We hope that our standpoint will find understanding and support in society.

The statement was signed by the following associations and blocs:

the Communist Party of the Russian Federation;

the Congress of Russian Communities Sociopolitical Movement;

the Forward, Russia! Sociopolitical Movement;

the Yabloko Public Association;

the Ivan Rybkin Bloc;

the Derzhava Social Patriotic Movement;

the Kedr Ecological Party of Russia;

the My Fatherland Association;

the Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia-Union of Labor Bloc;

the Pamfilova-Gurov-Vladimir Lysenko Bloc;

the Duma-96 Sociopolitical Movement;

the For the Motherland! Bloc;

the Russian Nationwide Movement;

the Christian Democratic Union-Christians of Russia Political Party;

the Association of Lawyers of Russia;

the Tikhonov-Tupolev-Tikhonov Bloc;

the Communists-Working Russia-For the Soviet Union Bloc;

the Interethnic Union;

the Independents' Bloc;

the People's Union' Party;

the electoral bloc including the Party for the Defense of Invalids, the Party for the Protection of Children, and so forth (Valentin Dikul).

Constitutional Court Declines To Examine Election Law

LD2011164895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's Constitutional Court on Monday declined to examine the constitutionality of the electoral law, a source in the Court told Tass.

The source did not elaborate, saying that Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov had been authorised to clarify motives of the decision.

Claims to review the law had been filed by the Supreme Court and a group of lawmakers. Parliamentary deputies had challenged a particular provision of the law, which requires a party to win a minimum of five per cent of votes to receive at least one seat in the State Duma, as infringing people's rights to representation.

Provided the court decided to examine the legality of the law, it could have postponed the elections scheduled for December 17.

Medvedev: Court Fails To Ease 'Tension'

LD2011175395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1743 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — "The Constitutional Court's decision has not eased the tension connected with the doubts concerning the quality of the law on the election of State Duma deputies," Russian presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev said.

Medvedev stressed that the "Constitutional Court gave deputies an opportunity to show political and civil wisdom and confirm their adherence to the principles of government by people through introducing the necessary amendments to the electoral law."

The press secretary pointed out that these amendments will be discussed by the Civic Accord conciliatory committee on Tuesday.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's position "remains unchanged — elections should take place on schedule and the election law should cause no doubts."

Earlier today, the Constitutional Court declined to examine the constitutionality of the electoral law, a source in the Court told ITAR-TASS.

The source did not elaborate, saying that Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov had been authorised to clarify motives of the decision.

Claims to review the law had been filed by the Supreme Court and a group of lawmakers. Parliamentary deputies had challenged a particular provision of the law, which requires a party to win a minimum of 5 per cent of votes to receive at least one seat in the State Duma, as infringing upon people's right to representation.

If the court had decided to examine the legality of the law, it could have postponed the elections scheduled for December 17.

Parties Welcome Court's Decision

LD2011193895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Leader of the Russia's Democratic Choice electoral bloc Yegor Gaydar said he welcomed today's refusal by the Constitutional Court to consider inquiries regarding the constitutionality of the law on elections to the State Duma. The inquiries have been submitted to the Constitutional Court by the High Court and a group of Duma deputies.

"Rules cannot be changed while the game is on," Gaydar told INTERFAX with regard to the Constitutional Court's decision.

Communist Party of Russia Chairman Gennadiy Zyuganov also praised the Constitutional Court's decision. "If the Constitutional Court decided to revise the election law during the election campaign, it would exhaust itself," Zyuganov told INTERFAX.

Zyuganov said the High Court "went beyond its authority" when submitting the inquiry to the Constitutional Court. "I have an impression that the High Court received corresponding instructions from people in the Kremlin," he said.

Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said he was satisfied with the decision of the Constitutional Court's plenum. "I am happy that law reigns here," he told INTERFAX in an interview.

Daily Clarifies Voting Rules for Russians Abroad

MM2111131095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Nov 95 p 6

[Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission Decree No. 45/384-II, "On Amendments to the Clarifications on the Procedure for the Compilation by the Precinct Electoral Commission of the List of Voters for the Elections of Deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, Second Convocation, and Its Presentation for General Familiarization," signed by A.V. Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, and A.A. Veshnyakov, secretary of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, in Moscow on 13 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission decrees:

1. Paragraph 11 of the Clarifications on the Procedure for the Compilation by the Precinct Electoral Commission of the List of Voters for the Elections of Deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, Second Convocation, and Its Presentation for General Familiarization, approved by decree of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission No. 30/235 II dated 24 October 1995, is to read as follows:

"The list of voters per electoral precinct formed outside the Russian Federation's territory includes citizens of the Russian Federation living outside the Russian Federation's territory or on long-term foreign assignments on condition that they have:

— a Russian Federation citizen's foreign passport;

— a USSR citizen's passport with the appropriate inscription (stamp) on the acquisition of Russian Federation citizenship;

— a USSR citizen's passport with an insert (certificate) on the acquisition of Russian Federation citizenship issued by a consular establishment of the Russian Federation;

— a national passport [natsionalnyy pasport] with the corresponding certificate on the acquisition of Russian Federation citizenship."

2. Paragraph 19 of the aforementioned Clarifications is to read as follows:

"Citizens of the Russian Federation visiting the territory of a foreign state by private invitation or on official, business, and tourist trips shall, on written application to the precinct electoral commission, be additionally included on the list of voters for the corresponding electoral precinct on condition that they hold:

— a Russian Federation citizen's foreign passport;

— a USSR citizen's passport with the appropriate inscription (stamp) on the acquisition of Russian Federation citizenship;

— a USSR citizen's passport with an insert (certificate) on the acquisition of Russian Federation citizenship issued by a consular establishment of the Russian Federation;

— a national passport with the corresponding certificate on the acquisition of Russian Federation citizenship."

3. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is instructed to convey the aforementioned instructions to the corresponding diplomatic missions and consular establishments of the Russian Federation, precinct electoral commissions, and electoral precincts formed outside the Russian Federation's territory.

4. This decree is to be published in the journal VESTNIK TSENTRALNOY IZBIRATELNOY KOMISSII ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Signed] A.V. Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission

A.A. Veshnyakov, secretary of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission

[Dated] Moscow, 13 November 1995
Decree No. 45/384-II

Yeltsin Tells Kozyrev To End Deadlock in Talks

LD2111115695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov 21 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin instructed Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to break the deadlock in talks on settling the Georgian-Abkhaz and the Karabakh conflicts, well-informed sources told Interfax on Tuesday.

On Wednesday [22 November] the Foreign Ministry will hold a session, which in addition to Kozyrev will involve Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and chief of the Federal Border Service Andrey Nikolayev, said a source.

In this connection the foreign minister, who was planning to leave on Tuesday for Murmansk where he has been nominated candidate for elections to the State Duma, revised his work schedule and remained in Moscow, said the source.

In the meantime the "unlimited time-out" continues in the Georgian-Abkhaz talks, a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Tuesday.

He laid "a considerable degree of responsibility for the time-out" on Abkhazia.

"The Georgian delegation has displayed greater flexibility and striving for a compromise. Tbilisi officials are willing to speak about forming a [illegible]ted state, in which Abkhazia would enjoy certain degree of independence," the diplomat said. "But their proposals were rebuffed by the Abkhaz delegation, which insists that Tbilisi and Sukhumi should have an equal status."

The diplomat believes that the Sukhumi representatives are deliberately procrastinating the negotiating process, in anticipation of the outcome of December's parliamentary elections in Russia.

He found it hard to say when the Georgian-Abkhaz talks will be resumed. "The only thing that is clear is that it will not happen this week," he said.

As Interfax learned from other Foreign Ministry sources, Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, who is in charge of the efforts to resolve the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, left for Bonn on Tuesday for consultations on Russian property in Germany. He is expected to return to Moscow on Saturday, November 25.

Kazakh Defense Minister Details CIS Council Meeting

LD1911111495 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kazakh Defense Minister Lieutenant General Alibek Kasymov answers questions from PANORAMA.

[PANORAMA] Another meeting of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers was recently held in Moscow. What issues were discussed?

[Kasymov] [passage omitted] A number of issues were looked at by the Council of Prime Ministers, including an agreement on preparing and training military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping forces. This task is pressing enough. Cooperation in launching joint peacekeeping operations is being undertaken within the framework of the European Union [EU] and the United Nations and is now being practiced increasingly in the CIS. This is why a document was approved by the participants in the meeting, except the representatives of those CIS countries which have traditionally had their own view on this — Moldova, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan.

[PANORAMA] Could you give us more details about this agreement? What was it about?

[Kasymov] [passage omitted] Both the mentality and psychology of peacekeepers should differ from that of those taking part in military operations. And for this, of course, you need extra training. The Russian Federation and Uzbekistan have been given the task of preparing possible training programs for such staff. I think this document is needed and will be developed within the CIS and, possibly, within the framework of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[PANORAMA] Some disputed issues seem to have been raised at the meeting. Could you tell us about them?

[Kasymov] The most difficult issues were to do with implementing the agreement on a joint CIS air defense system. Several ways of implementing the document were proposed, but it was drawn up without account being taken of Kazakhstan's views as to how a joint air defense system would be financed. According to the Russian side, all states should make a contribution and, on the basis of their individual share, implement scientific, technical, and practical issues relating to staffing and perfecting their national air defense systems.

This is unacceptable to us for the simple reason that each state has an air defense system which is more or less developed. So there is no need to talk about a single approach, a uniform equal contribution to financing. We all have to count money today. For this reason, we insisted that Kazakhstan's opinion be taken into account and the document was adopted with amendments.

The question of setting up some sort of additional outfit, an interim body to coordinate the air defense system, was also dropped. I think the coordinating council of air defense commanders of CIS states is quite capable of fulfilling this role.

As for scientific testing, experiments, and work in promising new fields, we insisted that only interested states be called upon to take part in any one project and that their financial contributions be in accordance with the level of interest and the number of tasks the program involves from the point of view of national interests.

To continue the subject of money, it can be said that only three CIS states do not owe debts to the military cooperation coordination staff. These are Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation. [passage omitted]

[PANORAMA] Might the structures of the staff be reappraised?

[Kasymov] The issue was raised at the Moscow meeting. A decision was adopted to rotate appointments to the post of first deputy head of the staff. Its whole staff, including its heads, have always been Russian officers, and the appearance of representatives of the armed forces of other CIS states in this important post will guarantee a more serious approach to the problems of integration. This step, in my view, indicates that we are starting to approach the issue of military cooperation more democratically.

[PANORAMA] Obviously you also held bilateral meetings with your colleagues in addition to participating in the meeting of the council of defense ministers.

[Kasymov] Yes, we met with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and discussed the results of work in 1995 and agreed that our meetings and consultations will become more regular next year. We agreed to hold a joint board of the Kazakh and Russian defense ministries on one of Kazakhstan's testing grounds before the end of the year. The aim of such a meeting should be to discuss a number of issues: how we are to keep our testing grounds and find the right forms and methods of work at these testing grounds, methods which not only do not scare the local population, but which bring them dividends in the form of an improved transport system and measures to develop water sources and build power transmission lines.

It should be clearly understood that it is our joint weapons that we are testing and that today we should be discussing not the closure of testing grounds, but correct ways of using them, ways which are first and foremost safe and ecologically clean. [passage omitted]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 November 1995

LD2111064495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0623 GMT 21 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, November 21 (ITAR-TASS) — The results of presidential elections in Poland and an attempt on the life of the head of the Chechen government Doku Zavgayev are in the limelight of the Russian press today.

Commenting on the victory of former communist and chairman of the party "Social Democracy of Poland" Aleksander Kwasniewski, "IZVESTIYA" says that "the victory of former communist Kwasiewski will not bring the process of the construction of capitalism in Poland to a standstill. However, another article by Vasiliy Aksenov from Warsaw entitled "Strange Nostalgia" conveys bitter feelings caused by the realization of the possibility of the communists' victory in the forthcoming elections in Russia.

"ROSSISKAYA GAZETA" says that it is not difficult to suggest what commotion might be created now that a miracle has allegedly happened." "Poland, which thanks to the "Solidarity" movement dealt a striking blow to communism, has voted for a socialist leader, or, figuratively speaking, for the "Red Sea". One should give due to the left-wing forces who managed to take their own ambitions under control and agreed to nominate one candidate, not so charismatic as Lech Walesa, but otherwise a very attractive politician," the newspaper said.

"PRAVDA" says that the victory was won thanks to a pragmatic approach, predictability of the activities of the leader of the left-wing forces and his ability to attract his supporters by the idea of the construction of new Poland which would offer a worthy place for all representatives of the society." In another article describing an attempt on the life of Doku Zavgayev, "PRAVDA" says that threats made by representatives from Dudayev's camp against those who dare organize elections to state bodies of "a different state" are being put into life. Participants in a recent meeting of field commanders have warned that such actions will be regarded as the betrayal of the national interests of the country and will be severely punished under conditions of war."

"TRUD" says that plans made by Dudayev's supporters who claim a monopoly right to represent the entire Chechen people "do not go together" with the creation of a new government led by Zavgayev, which was not self-proclaimed, but created by the very Supreme Soviet disbanded by Dudayev in 1991. A surge of new terrorist acts has been obviously prompted by a decision to hold the elections of the head of the Chechen state, the newspaper said.

The "RED STAR" daily carries an interview with Air Force Colonel-General Vladimir Kovalenok, who comments on the aftermath of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. "At first, it did not occur to us what fatal consequences the move might entail. There has been a terrible split not only in border areas, but in families and in the minds of millions of people. We sincerely believed that sovereignty and independence were a purely political category. In reality, we have begun to reinforce borders and establish customs check points, which caused pain to millions.

"ROSSIYSKIE VESTI" carries an interview with chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin who believes that not a single electoral bloc running for parliament will manage to win an absolute victory in the elections to the State Duma.

"TRUD" publishes statistical data about outbreaks of intestinal infectious diseases in 1995, with the number of such cases out down at 132 with 16,194 people affected. In many cases such diseases were related to a poor quality of drinking water, the newspaper said.

Deadline for Balkans Peace Treaty Set Aside

MK2111124095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Karpov: "The World Has Been Promised Peace in the Balkans. Vukovar and Dayton Will Forever Go Down in the History of Mankind"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the environs of Vukovar in May 1991 the first battles between Serbs and Croats took place. In the environs of Dayton four years later their presidents began negotiations on the future of these lands which, although they proceeded haltingly, nonetheless have left the fragile hope that peace will be restored in this part of the Balkans. [passage omitted]

In Dayton, the Americans had to exert pressure on both [sides]. When [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard] Holbrooke's pressure relaxed, Secretary of State Christopher, recalled from the other end of the earth, was released onto the stage. It was more than impossible to predict the outcome of the talks given the virtual news blackout, but regardless of their outcome it was clear that both Dayton and Vukovar will forever remain in the modern history of southern Slavs.

And now it was announced in Dayton yesterday that the final signing of a peace agreement by the Croats and Serbs is being postponed. Both sides are said to want peace, but differences in opinion on particular matters do not allow them to put their signatures under a fundamental document as scheduled.

Directive on Establishing Mission to Bosnia Published

MM2011122395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 6

[Untitled Russian Federation Government Directive 1458 dated Moscow, 23 October 1995 and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. In connection with the establishment of official relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the reaching of an accord on the exchange of missions, the Russian Federation Mission to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is to be established with a temporary location in the city of Zagreb (Republic of Croatia).

2. The staff of the Russian Federation Mission to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is to be set at the figure of seven (two diplomatic staffers and five administrative and technical staffers) from the overall staff complement of the Russian Foreign Ministry's establishments abroad.

3. The proposals by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Ministry of Finance are to be adopted in respect of establishing:

a) for employees of the Russian Federation's establishments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina:

— temporary salaries in freely convertible currency based on the salary of the Russian Federation ambassador to the Republic of Croatia in the sum of $1,408 a month;
— annual paid leave of 24 workdays;

b) deductions for medical aid to employees of the Russian Federation's establishments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the sum of 1.75 percent of their wages fund in foreign currency.

4. The costs of maintaining the Russian Federation Mission to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995 are to be met within the limits of the total appropriations in rubles and foreign currency allocated to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. The Russian Ministry of Finance is to provide for the allocation to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as of 1996, of the necessary appropriations in rubles and foreign currency for the costs associated with opening and maintaining the Russian Federation Mission to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. In order to house the Russian Federation Mission to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is permitted to temporarily lease appropriate premises in the city of Zagreb with a view to subsequently leasing, acquiring, or building the necessary premises in the city of Sarajevo (Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina).

By agreement with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Russian Ministry of Finance is to allocate appropriations for the said purposes in rubles and foreign currency.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Foreign Ministry: Why Russia May Back Out of CFE Treaty

LD2011180695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — A senior Russian Foreign Ministry expert said on Monday NATO's planned eastward expansion could make Russia back out of the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

The CFE is out of date since it set equal armaments levels for what were mutually hostile military alliances, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the expert argued in an interview with INTERFAX.

"In case the North Atlantic alliance is joined by Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic, which in the past were members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, the quantitative armaments balance will be upset in favor of NATO."

The CFE contains a clause which says any of the signatories can withdraw from the treaty if membership in it endangers its national interests, the expert said. But "the treaty can possibly be saved if the (North Atlantic) alliance extends the armaments quota established for it to its new members."

"Russia considers the present treaty inadequate and failing to reflect the changed military and political world situation and proposes signing a new document — a CFE-2 treaty that would not establish (armaments) divisions between blocs but would have an essentially different, national basis."

The CFE-2 should encompass not 30 nations, as the current treaty does, but 53, to include states that arose when the Soviet Union fell apart and neutral countries, the expert said.

"If this idea materialized it could become possible to consider other, possibly lower numerical armaments levels in Europe for each country."

The expert said Russia had repeatedly put forward the proposal at various levels but had met with no understanding either on the part of any NATO country or any neutral one.

CFE Treaty Obligations Said Fulfilled

LD2011154495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia has fulfilled its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE) in full, the press centre of the Russian Defence Ministry said on Monday.

Under the treaty, Russia cut its conventional forces by 3,188 tanks, 5,419 APCs, 660 artillery pieces, 1,029 warplanes and 99 combat helicopters during the 40-month reduction period provided for in the November 19, 1990 treaty. However, these do not include cuts in coastal guard and marines units which Russia is also to reduce under obligations of the former Soviet Union.

The reduction period that ended on November 16 will be followed by a period during which the final arms levels should be verified. During this period, Russia will be visited by observers from Belgium and Britain.

On the average, two groups of foreign observers will work in Russia every week.

Eastern Anti-NATO Bloc Theory as Dismissed as 'Bluff'

LD2011191095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Statements by some Russian politicians claiming possible creation of an eastern bloc by Russia in response to hasty expansion of NATO are a bluff, deputy head of the Federation Council's committee for international affairs Aleksey Manannikov told INTERFAX Monday.

"In theory, Russia can unite with Belarus, but it is rather hard to imagine any broader eastern bloc," he said.

"Russia can no longer dictate solution of any problems to foreign countries, after it stopped being a superpower," he said.

The only way left is "purely diplomatic efforts, a search for supporters of the Russian stand on non-expansion of NATO amongst European partners, including NATO members," he added.

Manannikov highly praised the Russian Foreign Ministry which "efficiently enough" uses the remaining possibilities to prevent a hasty NATO enlargement. "The Federation Council will criticize the Foreign Minister neither for its position, nor for the ways of its implementation," he stated.

At the same time, Manannikov said "NATO non-enlargement is a task impossible to solve overnight."

"What is pleasant is that neither society, nor Russia's state bodies have forces opposing to the official policy of non-acceptance of a hasty NATO enlargement to the east," Manannikov said. "This cannot but influence the alliance's position on this issue," he added.

Russia Strives for Even Relations With Poland

LD2011190395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Russia is striving to keep even relations with Poland, and develop them in all spheres, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov told INTERFAX Monday.

Commenting on preliminary results of the Polish presidential elections, he stressed that Russia has full respect for the will of the Polish people. "This is their choice," said the official.

According to latest reports, left-wing leader Aleksander Kwasniewski is slightly ahead of his rival Polish President Lech Walesa.

Moscow will do its best to expand bilateral cooperation, said Krylov.

"We have managed to do a lot in the past five years, and we hope that Russian-Polish relations will continue to develop," he stressed.

Filatov: Poland's Kwasniewski no Threat to Reforms

LD2011151395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — "Polish communists and Russian communists are different communists," head of the Russian President's Staff Sergey Filatov told correspondents in Moscow Monday when asked about the results of Polish presidential elections.

According to preliminary results, social democrat Alexander Kwasniewski is leading the presidential race.

Commenting on the race leader, Filatov said "that communist does not encroach on the Constitution or the reforms, whereas our communists do."

"For me, the most threatening thing about our communists is that their actions are based on bolshevism. I think that is feared by everyone," said the staff head.

Alexander Kwasniewski Profiled

MM2111135895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kiryanov: "Aleksander Kwasniewski New Polish President"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Warsaw — Last Sunday, in the second round of voting in the presidential election, it was as if Poland split down the middle. Almost every second person who went to the ballot box voted for "their own man" — the current president Lech Walesa or Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the Democratic Left Alliance. The several million citizens of voting age who were equally reluctant to support either of the two finalists in the presidential marathon simply stayed at home or turned out simply to cross out both candidates on the ballot paper. There were also people who grudgingly chose what they thought was the lesser of two evils. [Passage omitted]

The new president is 41 and an economist (admittedly, his actual graduation after his fifth year at Gdansk University is in dispute). He is married with a daughter. In the eighties he was chief editor of the ITD weekly and of the SZTANDAR MLODYCH youth newspaper, a member of the Council of Ministers in the Messner and Rakowski governments, head of the State Committee for Youth Affairs and Physical Culture, and chairman of the Polish Olympic Committee. At the last congress of the Polish United Workers Party he was one of the authors of the radical political changes in the country. He actively participated in sessions of the so-called "roundtable" which concluded an agreement with the opposition to the former regime, headed by Lech Walesa, to find a way out of the political crisis. At the inaugural congress of Poland's social democrats he was elected party chairman. He is a parliamentary deputy and chairman of the Sejm Constitutional Commission....

It is worth noting that during the election campaign none of the rivals — including the left-wing contender — said anything about having any sympathies for Russia. They expressed complete unanimity on all international issues — including Poland's inevitable admission to NATO.

'Financial Problems' Check Iran's Work on Powerplant

LD2011145695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — It is only financial problems that are a check on the building operations to complete the nuclear power station in Bushehr, south Iran, Russian Ambassador to Tehran Sergey Tretyakov told ITAR-TASS on Monday. The question as to when the building operations will begin is the most difficult one, he said.

"The Russian side confirmed Moscow's political will for cooperation with Iran in the area of nuclear energetics when Russian Deputy Premier Aleksey Bolshakov was on his recent visit in Iran and conducted negotiations with Reza Amrollani, president of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran. However, the financial problems that emerged are a hindrance to the implementation of the agreements reached," the ambassador said.

"Iran is to repay a debt of 20 million dollars for the survey and designing already done and to open a bill of credit to approximately 60 million dollars so that Russian organisations could embark on the main work. The contract for the completion of the nuclear power plant is commercial, and the Russian side could not work without funds," the ambassador said.

After Bolshakov's visit, the Iranian side turned over to the Russian side the documents to open bills of credits, the ambassador said. "But bills of credit and ready money are different things," he said. To promote the solution of the problem, a delegation of "Zarubezhatomenergostroy," the production association for nuclear power construction abroad, that will be completing the nuclear power station, will arrive in Tehran this week, Tretyakov said.

The main structures of the organisation are already working in Tehran and specialists are arriving.

Marked Increase in Trade With Turkey in 1995

LD2011183595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian shuttle traders have accounted for $3 billion worth of Russian-Turkish trade this year, Deputy Minister for External Economic Relations Vladimir Karasin and Chairman of the Turkish Committee for Foreign Trade Yavuz Kilic told a joint session of the bilateral business council opening in St Petersburg on Monday.

The meeting involves over 60 Turkish and 120 Russian companies.

Turkish exports to Russia were said to be up 56.7 percent on 1994 and Russia's to Turkey by 94.48 percent.

In an opening speech Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak called on foreign traders to look for a success in Russian regions having less bureaucratic hurdles. He said Turkish construction firms had a marked presence in the city's building market.

Among Turkish-aided projects the mayor pointed to the luxury hotel, Severnaya Korona, and a $10 million woodworking plant with an annual capacity of 200,000 square meters of timber, both of them being put up by Turkey's ATA company.

Sobchak called for civilized barter trade between St. Petersburg and Turkey saying that a bilateral business committee was set up by the mayor's office to this end.

The mayor offered Turkish construction firms to set up a Turkish trading center on the basis of an old city market after reconstruction. He also offered them to take part in housing construction in St. Petersburg with the cost of district infrastructures being met by the city budget.

Sobchak also announced that direct air flights from St. Petersburg to Istanbul would open in the next few months.

Russia, Cuba National Banks Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD2111080195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 21 Nov 95

[By Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Havana November 21 (ITAR-TASS) — The Central Bank of Russia signed on Monday a cooperation agreement on the exchange of information with the National Bank of Cuba.

The agreement creates a legal basis for relations between the national banks of the two countries, Mikhail Senatorov, Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, told TASS. It envisages cooperation in payment transactions, assistance in the training of personnel and the exchange of information. Two big Russian banks — Stolichniy and Inkombank forwarded applications to the Cuban government on opening their offices in Cuba. The agreement will make it possible for Russia to help its commercial financial institutions in Cuba.

We are interested in economic cooperation with Cuba, Senatorov said. For many years Moscow and Havana cooperated most closely in various spheres, enormous sums were spent, and now it is just impossible to break those relations all of a sudden, because both sides are sure to sustain losses. Senatorov mentioned the recent visit to Cuba of First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and stressed that the restoration of full-scale economic relations with Cuba was one of the key tasks facing the Russian Government in the sphere of foreign policy.

Decree on Submitting Proposal on Leninsk Published

964F0365A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 4

[Decree No. 979 of the Government of the Russian Federation of 9 October 1995, Moscow: "Presentation to the President of the Russian Federation of a Proposal on the Signing of an Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Status of the City of Leninsk and the Procedure of the Formation and the Status of its Executive Authorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Russian Federation decrees that:

— It approves the draft Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Status of the City of Leninsk and the Procedure of the Formation and the Status of its Executive Authorities presented by the Russian Space Agency, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, and the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Cooperation With Participants in the Commonwealth of Independent States and preliminarily agreed with the Kazakhstani side.

— It presents the president of the Russian Federation with the proposal on the signing of the said agreement.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Receives Chernomyrdin, Signs Documents

LD2111150895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1336 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin discussed the progress of the election campaign today. The prime minister was visiting the head of state at the Central Clinical Hospital where Boris Yeltsin is undergoing treatment.

The head of state's press service said that "the two men concluded that candidates for the Duma need to observe ethical standards and prevent their emotions from boiling over."

Boris Yeltsin approved the government's steps to clear up debt to pensioners and to pay the Defense Ministry and enterprises of the military-industrial complex. Measures to implement the president's edict "On several measures to defend the rights of investors and shareholders" were also discussed.

The press service reports that the president and the head of the government discussed "several changes to the structure of the government." Boris Yeltsin approved proposals made by the prime minister and in this context he signed an edict "On the State Committee of the Russian Federation on developing the North".

Viktor Chernomyrdin informed the president of his meeting with the Russian defense minister, the commanders of the military districts, and other military commanders on 17 November.

The report says that the two men "looked at several issues to do with personnel policy."

Filatov Reports on 20 Nov Meeting With Yeltsin

LD2011184495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, met the president today. Filatov told us the details himself.

A reference book prepared by the analytical directorate of the Russian president was presented to journalists at a news conference on Staraya Ploshchad [where presidential administration is located] today. It is called "Russian Regions on the Eve of the 1995 Elections." The press was more interested in the second part of that meeting. Approximately an hour after it began, Filatov appeared in the hall. He met Boris Yeltsin in the Central Clinical Hospital today.

[Begin Filatov recording] My impressions are, on the whole, good, from what I saw. Today, the meeting was as if it was in his cabinet, let us say, more official. [end recording]

Filatov said that mainly organizational and personnel questions were discussed and quite a bit of time was devoted to drawing up national and regional policy concepts. How the pre-election campaign was proceeding was also discussed. Journalists were very interested in finding out whether the latest events in Chechnya and the possibility of holding elections there were discussed at the meeting with the president.

[Begin Filatov recording] We did not discuss that theme. But, in any event, until power is legitimized in that republic we will always have difficulty in making progress. Therefore, I think that problem today is becoming a most acute one. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Orders Investigation Into Zavgayev Attack

LD2011180995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered his "power" ministers to probe into an assassination attempt against Chechnya's Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev early on Monday.

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin today instructed Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov, Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov, Russian Public Prosecutor Yuriy Skuratov and Counterintelligence Service chief Mikhail Barsukov to 'investigate, without delay, the terrorist act against head of Chechnya's government Doku Zavgayev in Groznyy this morning'," Russian presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

The spokesman noted that "the head of state has also issued instructions to investigate all cases of hostages taking among workers and employees engaged in construction and restoration work in the Chechen Republic."

Yeltsin Names Soskovets Head of State Secrets Commission

MM2011162595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 6

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict 1108 "On the Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of State Secrets," signed by Russian Federation President

B. Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 8 November — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On State Secrets," I decree:

1. The Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of State Secrets is formed.

2. O.N. Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, is appointed chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of State Secrets.

It is laid down that the chairman of the State Technical Commission under the Russian Federation president and the director of the Russian Federation Federal Security Service are deputy chairmen of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of State Secrets.

3. Within one month the Russian Federation Government is to submit for approval:

— a statute on the Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of State Secrets and its structure and composition;

— a draft state program to ensure the protection of state secrets in the Russian Federation during 1995-1996.

4. Organizational and technical support for the activity of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of State Secrets is entrusted to the central apparatus of the State Technical Committee under the Russian Federation president.

5. This edict comes into force the day it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 8 November 1995

Yeltsin Sends Message to Farmers, Food Producers

MM2011152195 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Greetings message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin "To Agricultural and Processing Industry Workers" dated 16 November 1995 on the occasion of Agricultural and Processing Industry Workers Day; under the general headline "Words of Hearty Congratulation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed agricultural and processing industry workers!

I heartily congratulate you on your professional holiday!

In all times your hands have created the most important thing to people's lives — food products. A sufficiency of food has always been a guarantee of any state's normal development. Peasants have no easy task. This year has been especially hard for our country. Climatic difficulties have been added to financial and economic difficulties. The drought's consequences would have been graver had it not been for peasants' selfless labor and their awareness of their professional duty and responsibility to the country. On the whole the Russian population will be fully supplied with all necessary food products.

The country's leadership understands the problems which the agrarian sector is encountering and is taking all possible measures to support it. But much also depends on you agricultural workers and food processing industry workers and on your single-mindedness in continuing the reforms, your creative initiative, and your effective work.

On the day of your holiday I express my profound thanks and sincere gratitude to workers at state and collective farms and joint-stock companies, private farmers, and all agro-industrial complex workers for your noble labor and loyalty to your peasant duty.

I would like Russian peasants to become the real masters of the land and of the fruits of their labor. I wish you and your families good health, happiness, and prosperity!

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

[Dated] 16 November 1995

Premier Interviewed on Help for Duped Investors

MM2111113295 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Nov 95 p 2

[Interview with Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin by Aleksandr Gamov; place and date not given: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: We Will Not Abandon Investors in Their Misfortune"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gamov] Viktor Stepanovich, I have heard you say on several occasions that the government has no intention of compensating duped investors for their losses. You say, we did warn you, but you.... Now suddenly the Russian president with your participation, as far as I am aware, is agreeing to ease their lot. One may quite well assume that the publication of Saturday's presidential edict is directly linked with the coming elections....

[Chernomyrdin] The elections have got nothing to do with it. It is just that today we have succeeded in transforming the structure of our economy as a result of a tough — and some people even go so far to call it brutal — financial policy. To put it more simply, we are keeping the situation under control. All this has effectively enabled the national economy to operate for almost eight months without dipping below 100 percent

[Vse eto pozvolyayet narodnomu khozyaystvu, po suti dela, v techeniye pochti vosem mesyatev rabotat, ne opuskayas nizhe 100 protsentov]. Some sectors of the economy have already been operating at well over 100 percent. That is why an opportunity has presented itself for us to help people who were duped. This simply did not exist before and that was why we made no promises.

You know that it is not my nature to play on the feelings of aggrieved and humiliated people. People say, the government did tell you: Do not trust all these dubious pyramids, but you did not listen. We probably gave bad warnings. And people were greatly tempted.... So, let us not have a postmortem.

[Gamov] Good. Well can you assess the political significance of this document?

[Chernomyrdin] In this sense, and particularly the ethical, moral context, the significance of Saturday's presidential edict is hard to overestimate. After all, in effect this is the first time that it has been said that safeguarding and protect the rights of investors is the state's business. Can one really call this a populist measure timed to coincide with the elections? Investors are citizens like everyone else, and we have no right to abandon them in their misfortune. After all, many people have lost their shirt....

[Gamov] What mechanism will there be for paying out to duped investors?

[Chernomyrdin] Well, this can be seen from the edict. A whole series of measures to compensate people for their losses is being elaborated. This process will not only come under state supervision, special public committees and associations of investors are already being set up at local level. The president's edict is not only designed to repay what was invested, but also to compensate for those losses entailed by inflation.

[Gamov] When will duped investors have their hard-earned cash repaid?

[Chernomoyrdin] We are now organizing a share investment fund, that is, the deposits are being transferred into shares. You will be able to get your money right away, or you may put that money in a share, invest it in some particular enterprise, and make it work.

[Gamov] Viktor Stepanovich, what about those investors who put money in savings banks and had it "gobbled up" by inflation?

[Chernomyrdin] We are drafting a presidential edict on compensation for the population's savings that were in savings banks in the period through 1991 and were then devalued. Needless to say, we will not be able to pay everyone right away. We will probably start with the older generation and disabled war veterans and workers, and then get to everyone else. Computations are right now being made....

[Gamov] One last point: Do the president and the government intend to take any steps to avoid there being any more duped investors in Russia?

[Chernomyrdin] This issue is our prime concern. I can assure our citizens that we will do everything we can to avoid a repetition of this.

There are too many people wanting to abuse the situation. We must put a stop to that.

Yavlinskiy Confident Yeltsin To Lose Reelection

AU2011154195 Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 18-19 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by "R.M.": "A Russian Reformer With a Future"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reform Politician Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is currently one of the most popular candidates for the Russian presidential elections next June. For the parliamentary elections on 17 December his "Yabloko" party is seen as the best hope of the reform forces. In an interview in Berlin Yavlinskiy expresses the conviction that Yeltsin will not be elected for a second term.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the chairman of the Russian reform party "Yabloko" would probably be very successful as a politician also in the West. [passage omitted] In fluent English he speaks to a small group of journalists, whom he has invited for a news conference on the sidelines of a larger conference in Berlin to spread his ideas and knowledge of himself also among the Western audience. [passage omitted]

Open Decision at the Duma Elections

Yavlinskiy is convinced that a large majority of Russian voters will decide on whom they will vote for in the elections for a new Lower House (Duma), which is scheduled for 17 December, only during the last 10 days before the elections. And he expects that quite a lot of surprises might happen during these last days before the elections. For instance, the government might suddenly announce the payment of the wages and pensions in arrears to make the voters favorably disposed toward the "Russia Is Our Home" party, which is headed by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

However, further attempts by the Moscow power establishment to strongly manipulate the forthcoming parliamentary elections or to force their postponement after all are also conceivable. Such an attempt was the decision by the Election Commission — which has meanwhile been rescinded by the Supreme Court — to exclude Yavlinskiy's party from the elections because of a formal mistake during registration. Yavlinskiy sees the initiative by some parliamentarians to call into question the constitutionality of the 5-percent clause for entering the Duma (which is to provide a helpful filtering of the confusing field of 42 officially registered parties) as another such attempt that points in the same direction. According to the latest polls in Russia, the Communists would get the best results in the parliamentary elections at the moment. Yavlinskiy is not particularly worried about that. Even if the communists really were to become the strongest party again, which is not at all certain because most voters are still undecided at the moment, this need not be a bad omen, in his view, for the far more important presidential elections next year. It cannot be ruled out, Yavlinskiy says, that a communist majority in the Duma would be rather favorable for sobering the voters with their nostalgic dreams of a potential return to the glorified past. This, for its part, might stimulate the attractiveness of a consistent reformer and representative of a new generation of politicians, such a Yavlinskiy himself, at the presidential elections.

Hardly Any Chance for Yeltsin

And what about Boris Yeltsin? Yavlinskiy expresses the conviction that the current president will not be reelected next year. Either, he states apodictically, Yeltsin does not want to or cannot run in the elections for health reasons after his second heart attack or, if he does run again, he will lose the race. This very definite forecast is probably not completely free of wishful thinking.

However, Yavlinskiy says, what is more important for the political reform process in Russia than the question of who will win the elections is the guarantee that the parliamentary and presidential elections take place under relatively acceptable conditions in the first place. This is the only way in which a certain democratic continuity and a consolidated party system can emerge in a country where — in contrast to some other former communist countries in eastern Central Europe — there are no extended experiences with a parliamentary democracy.

The central demand in the reform concept of politician and economist Yavlinskiy is the dissolution of the monopolies in the Russian industry. In this sector there has never been real privatization and a functioning competition, he says. The only Russian industries that are able to export major amounts are in oil and natural gas production, and their oligarchic leadership is close to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, as well as armament industry, whose lobbyists cultivate particularly close relations with Yeltsin's presidential guard, according to Yavlinskiy. In Yavlinskiy's view, the monopoly-like structures in Russian industry are a particularly fertile ground for the rampant networks of corruption and Mafia. There are still different centers of power in the country, which are struggling for supremacy and different interests. However, the danger is very real that if free elections are prevented and the still very weak democratic control mechanisms are eliminated, Russia might come entirely into the hands of a criminal oligarchy.

A Remark on NATO Expansion

Personally, Yavlinskiy does not oppose the planned accession of east European reform countries to NATO. This is a free decision by the countries involved. In his view, the talk about Russia being militarily threatened by the Western defense alliance is just a fantasy. However, at the same time, Yavlinskiy points out that an expansion to the east by NATO would be a gift from heaven for the imperialistic-minded saber-rattlers among the Russian military. These forces would certainly not miss the opportunity to resurrect their comfortable old enemy image and to push forward with their expansionist ambitions.

Should Russia become a modern western-style democracy in the long run? Before answering, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy ponders this question for some time and then says Solomonically that the Russian people have to decide on this matter. As a politician, his most important task is that these people can participate in deciding their future in the first place.

Lebed Presidential Candidacy To Depend on Duma Elections

LD2011114395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1032 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 November (ITAR-TASS) — "There is no split in the Congress of Russian Communities [CRC] election movement." General Lebed made this statement to an ITAR-TASS correspondent today in connection with rumors about his rivalry with the CRC leader Yuriy Skokov for the post of Russian president.

"The issue of presidential elections is not a question of principle at present for CRC. We have a more urgent task: to come in in force in the elections to the State Duma on 17 December," explained the former 14th Army commander.

At the same time Aleksandr Lebed did not refute assumptions that had appeared in the press that he was getting ready to stand for Russian presidency: "I will make a decision depending on what results the CRC will get in the elections to the State Duma."

Daily Reviews Latest Changes in Government Staff

MK2111121595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "Renewal Is Taking Shape in Russian Governmental Staff. Department Heads Are Giving In Their Separation Applications"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It looks like a staff rotation campaign has started in the government. On 8 November, Vladimir Sukhanov resigned from his post of administrative department head to be succeeded by Sergey Stepashin, former Federal Security Service chief (the fact in itself indicative of the post's importance). Five days later, International Cooperation Department Head Sergey Tsyplakov left the House of the Government after having worked in that capacity for more than two years. The main reason for his resignation was, in his words, "the atmosphere at the [Russian] White House, absolutely unfit for work." Unwilling to speak of the "atmosphere unfit for work," the former international department head mentioned, however, that major difficulties in the government arise "with the people in charge of personnel policy," adding that "election-related considerations" are of no small importance in the staff rotation. The government's apparatus head Vladimir Babichev, responsible for the "personnel policy," is playing a fairly prominent role in mounting "Russia Is Our Home's" electoral campaign.

According to SEGODNYA's information, resignation prospects are looming for Petr Surov, head of the Investment and Construction Department, known more for his work as first deputy chairman on the commission for restoration of Chechnya's economy. In an interview with SEGODNYA, Mr. Surov did not dismiss rumors alleging that he had already given in his separation application. He said, however, that the information of his resignation had already reached Chechnya, and "alarmed telephone calls by people, worried about the prospects of reconstruction work," were being received from there. Mr. Surov noted that the calls only speak in favor of his work as the commission's first deputy chairman.

It is highly probable that the staff reshuffle will not end with this. Rumors of possible staff reshuffling have been persistently going around in the [Russian] White House corridors of late. Department heads are the most likely persons to end government career in the near future. However, it is at this administrative level of the governmental apparatus that major work on the documents is carried out, and, therefore, the change in the medium level is apt to considerably affect the activity of the government as a whole.

Vladimir Babichev himself declined to comment on the latest changes in the government, claiming that he was too busy.

Zaveryukha Discusses Current State of Agriculture

MM2111102795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Nov 95 pp 1,3

[Interview with A.Kh. Zaveryukha, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, by Aleksandr Gavrilyuk, place and date not given: "Not To Worry, Peasants, We Will Survive the Winter" — first paragraph is ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] On November 19 the country celebrates Agriculture and Processing Industry Workers' Day. On the eve of that event our correspondent asked A.Kh. Zaveryukha, Russian deputy prime minister, to answer a few questions.

[Gavrilyuk] Aleksandr Kharlampiyevich, the agricultural year is almost over. How was it for workers in the agro-industrial complex?

[Zaveryukha] Difficult. Although there are no easy years in agriculture. Our country is too vast for the various regions to be spared all natural disasters. But the kind of drought that we had this year, according to the scientists' calculations happens three times a century at most. More than 30 Russian territories suffered from it. As a result the country was more than 15 million tonnes of grain short. These are, as it were, the direct losses — the crop which was completely scorched. But there were also indirect losses.

But unfortunately the weather was not the only test of rural inhabitants' toughness. They experienced great difficulties because they could not sell their produce promptly or at a proper price. Payments are being delayed and not only by commercial structures but also by state structures. And if there is money there will be no new equipment, spares, fuel, fertilizer, or plant protection agents either. All these factors caused chaos to the work of rural commodity producers, meant that the best agrotechnical deadlines were missed, and influenced the end result — the harvest.

Nevertheless, today we have good cause to pay due tribute to the workers of joint-stock companies, partnerships, cooperatives, the surviving kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and private farmers for producing what is generally not a bad harvest in incredibly difficult conditions.

[Gavrilyuk] Russia effectively abandoned the purchase of grain abroad in recent years and this, I believe, is a great achievement. Nevertheless, this year there have been problems with the grain supply mainly because of the severe drought. In this regard society is worried about what the price of bread is going to be. There are many views on this subject: Will we not have to go abroad for grain again?

[Zaveryukha] An analysis of resources shows that in 1995-1996 the population will be provided with an uninterrupted supply of bread and bread products, meat, animal fats, sugar, potatoes, vegetables, and other staple foodstuffs. That is the general picture.

Now for grain in particular. Recently much has been written in the newspapers and said on television about this subject by people who unfortunately are either ill-informed or are simply playing politics with this issue. So let us do some very elementary calculations to explain this problem in the simplest possible terms.

There are around 150 million people living in Russia. This year, with its unfavorable weather conditions, 65.5 million tonnes of grain (in post-processing weight) were harvested. That is 450-470 kg per head of the population. In other words, the same as the average production in the EU countries. But over there they do not speak of the "dread figure of famine" and the need for foreign grain convoys.

So we have no need to send couriers across the ocean either.

I am a realist and I understand very well that the imported food flooding into our country at dumping prices is not selfless aid from generous foreign benefactors. It is a targeted policy aimed at capturing the huge Russian market. Perhaps this is quite a normal practice from the business viewpoint. But you cannot ignore the fact that our rural commodity producer is still not ready for such fierce competition. That is why the government's aim and task are to protect the Russian commodity producer in this situation and provide him with conditions conducive to normal, competitive work. That in particular is why duties have been increased on imported food, export concessions have been granted to our commodity producers, and a number of other measures have been adopted.

Now for prices. Yes, they will rise. That is an objective process in conditions of inflation. But the question is this — how far will prices rise? Here, however, not everything is determined by rural commodity producers. The main factor is the mark-up imposed by the many intermediaries between the field and the store. For example, the grain producers themselves account for just 15-18 percent of the price of the end product — fresh bread. But in countries with a developed market economy, which we customarily cite, this figure is 50-60 percent. That is true of virtually all types of agricultural products. As you can see, prices of grain and other foodstuffs that we buy in the stores every day are rising not through the whim of rural workers but mainly because of the intermediaries who have arrogated to themselves the right to dispose of the results of other people's labor as they see fit.

[Gavrilyuk] Aleksandr Kharlampiyevich, what can you tell us about the expansion of Western importers into the Russian food market and what can the Russian peasant do to stop this?

[Zaveryukha] To a certain extent I have already answered that question. I would only add that whatever else it may have done, the reform has radically changed economic relations in the country and switched them to a market footing.

It has to be acknowledged that the weak link in the formation of a market infrastructure is still wholesale trade.

Wholesale food markets are necessary above all to restore the economic ties between commodity producers and consumers that have broken down. In this process there is no place for the many intermediaries who have sprung up in connection with the abolition of the centralized planning and resource distribution system.

At present there are around 40 wholesale markets already operating in 11 Russian regions and preparations are underway to create them in 25 [regions]. This is one of the main areas of work today. And it is gratifying that its significance has already been well understood and assessed appropriately at local level.

[Gavrilyuk] In this connection could you dwell on the activity of the food corporation?

[Zaveryukha] As I have already said, it was set up recently, late last year, but has already to a certain extent helped to improve the operation of the agro-industrial complex and the organization of contemporary economic structures in agriculture in market conditions.

Its main task — and this is laid down in the Russian Federation Government decree — is the development and state regulation of the food market in the interests of commodity producers, and to meet the population's demand for food and industry's demand for agricultural raw materials. The Federal Food Corporation ensures the effective and repayable use of funds enlisted for state regulation of the market and the implementation of other operations involving food.

Today the corporation is being formed. It is experiencing particular difficulties with the finance and credit needed to procure and make advance payments for agricultural produce. But I am sure that these will be short-lived difficulties. The main thing is that the right road has been taken. The experience of Volgograd's "Agris" agro-financial corporation, which was set up within the framework of the Federal Food Corporation, inter alia provides convincing evidence of this. It acts as an open-type joint-stock company and was formed as a result of 25 major components of the Volgograd Oblast agricultural market pooling capital. It includes banks, rural commodity producers, state establishments and enterprises, and commercial firms.

The agrofinancial corporation utilizes the system of economic interests, organizing work throughout the technological chain from production to consumption. In a short time this structure has won recognition from rural commodity producers, processing personnel, trade, and consumers and has become an agricultural market leader in Volgograd Oblast. We think that this experience will meet with support in other regions.

[Gavrilyuk] I remember that the program for the development of the agro-industrial complex through the year 2000 was discussed long and hard. What is its fate?

[Zaveryukha] The fate of this program is certainly difficult. For a year a number of ministries, departments, scientific collectives, and recognized practical authorities have been working intensively to bring the draft program up to the required level. This is due to the fact that the tasks currently facing the program are very serious and crucial.

[Gavrilyuk] How, in your view, are reforms being implemented in agriculture? There is the view that they are marking time. And what do you think about land relations?

[Zaveryukha] Well anyone who thinks that agricultural reforms are marking time is either too far-removed from the countryside or is simply playing the slippery eel. The process of shaping a new socioeconomic structure for agriculture is into its fifth year now, a considerable redistribution of land is taking place, it is being transferred to private, collective, and collective-shared ownership. In all 96 percent of kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been reorganized and private farmers have received 12 million hectares of land.

That represents just a small fraction of what has been achieved in the course of agrarian reform.

The fact that the agrarian sector is experiencing serious difficulties during the current phase of reform due primarily to the general crisis in the national economy — the severing of integration ties and the loss of economic manageability — is another matter and I think that is what you meant.

This is mainly having an adverse effect on the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex. And the reasons are universally- recognized. The reforms have not been provided with legislative backup.

As for land relations, this is a serious and multifaceted problem. It cannot be discussed in brief. Nor can it be resolved rapidly. This will take years and years. Land relations take centuries to develop in all states — both developed and Third World states. Yet we want to resolve such a painful, fundamental problem by means of a cavalry charge, at a stroke of the pen. No, that does not happen. Needless to say, unless we are trying to create another revolutionary situation in the country.

[Gavrilyuk] On the eve of Russian agrarians' holiday, what would you like to wish them?

[Zaveryukha] The Russian peasant has a hard life today; to tell the truth he has never had an easy life. I know this first-hand — all my life has been linked with the countryside. But among peasants it is kind of unusual to talk about the difficulties, especially on a holiday. Therefore — and I urge you, esteemed journalists, to do the same — let us remember with a kind word everyone who sows grain, tends livestock, and processes cultivated output. Since it is their efforts that provide the most varied food for our table. They give us life, a future in the full sense of the word.

On their professional holiday I would like to wish country people, everyone who is indissolubly linked with agrarian production health, happiness, well-being, and prosperity!

Military & Nuclear Issues

Yeltsin Urges Law on Alternative Military Service

LD2011120695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin has sent a letter to State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin urging him to accelerate the adoption of the federal law on the procedure of replacing military service with alternative civilian service.

The president's press service reports that this law is of great socio-political and defense importance. However, it has not been adopted by the State Duma despite the fact that its draft was approved in the first reading almost a year ago, on December 14, 1994.

Yeltsin also sent Rybkin an analysis of the draft federal law on the principles of municipal service in the Russian Federation. The document says that individual provisions of the draft law go against the constitution.

In accordance with the constitution, federal bodies of state authority have the right to establish only the most general rules of municipal service. More detailed legal regulation of the said question would be an instance of interference in the competence of the Federation's constituent members, the document goes on to say.

The said draft law regulates questions which cannot be referred to the competence of the Russian Federation, including salary, bonuses and leave granted to a municipal worker, the document continues.

Taking into account these and other critical remarks concerning the competence of the Federation and its constituent members, the text of the draft should be considerably revised, the document says.

Defense Official Complains of Funding Delays

LD2011155995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 20 (ITAR-TASS) — "The armed forces of Russia are waiting for the premier's promise to pay the debts of the army and the navy to come true," ITAR-TASS was told today by Lieutenant-General Vasiliy Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chief of the Defence Ministry's Central Department for the Military Budget and Financing. "We still do not know by means of what mechanism this decision of the government, so important for the life of the armed forces and their combat training, will be fulfilled," he added. Kuznetsov noted that various interpretations of this quite official statement have already appeared.

It is worth recalling that during his meeting with leaders of the Russian military establishment in Moscow last Friday, Premier Chernomyrdin had stated that the Russian government would pay all the debts from the federal budget to the Defence Ministry already in November, including money for the maintenance of the army, purchases of armaments and materiel.

"Starting from December we shall finance only the needs of that month," the premier stressed. "We must begin to finance the armed forces according to a normal scheme beginning from the new year," Chernomyrdin stated.

Russia Unable To Scrap Arms in Central Asia by Deadline

LD2111115095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 21 (INTERFAX) — Russia is clearly unable to fulfill the July 14, 1991, unilateral promise by the then Soviet government to scrap military hardware withdrawn to the Asian part of the country.

Chief of the international cooperation section at the General Staff Col. Gen. Dmitriy Kharchenko told INTERFAX Moscow he wants the deadline to be shifted from December 31, 1995, to the end of 1998.

The delay was for purely economic reasons, he said. "Fulfillment of the promise requires about 100 billion rubles in current prices," the general said.

Out of 6000 tanks, 1500 armored vehicles and 7000 artillery systems, Russia has destroyed 1141 tanks, 608 armored vehicles and 2709 guns.

"There are no scrapping facilities beyond the Urals, so weapons have to be taken to other regions," Kharchenko said.

He said the weaponry to be destroyed does not play an important role in the defense capability of the country. "These are mostly outdated models, such as T-54 and T-55 tanks," the official said.

He reminded INTERFAX that military hardware pulled out of the European part of the USSR is located in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan in addition to Russia. In the absence of funds, Central Asian countries are also unable to stand by the promise of the Soviet government.

Kharchenko said the four countries have to destroy a total of 10,000 tanks.

"The scrapping of weapons is an expensive procedure. For instance, before a tank is sent to a blast furnace for smelting the turret should be removed and equipment dismantled. The gun has to be separated from the turret and cut up. For one month the parts should be kept near the tank, so that Western countries can control the process from space," Kharchenko explained.

According to him, the West suggested a simplified form of destruction by filling a tank with concrete. "But it does not suit us, because of the lack of any benefit for us. It would be impossible to get even the metal in this way," the general said.

Daily Views Possibility of Civil War

MM2011134395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Yuriy Rubtsov: "If in the Past They Shot From a Pistol, Expect From the Future a Shot From a Gun"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 17 November 1920 the Red Army victoriously completed the Perekop-Chongar operation to liberate Crimea from Vrangel's troops. Thus the last major organizational front of the civil war was eliminated. [passage omitted]

"Mutual brutalization has already reached extremes." "The two sides are vying in cruelty," Vladimir Galaktionovich Korolenko wrote in August 1920 from far-off Poltava, urging through A.V. Lunacharskiy, the people's commissar for education, for clemency on the part of the victors (and by then the reds were indeed already winning), persuading them to be the first to break the circle of repressions. Because morality had declined to an incredible level and human life was worth next to nothing. Not only the regular armies on both sides but also most of the Russian population was drawn into the lethal vortex of the civil war. Even children were recruited to the carnage? People may disagree with me but oh, what repercussions all this had later, in the thirties.

Russia's best minds opposed this brutalization: Ivan Bunin, Vladimir Korolenko, Vladimir Vernadskiy, Nikolay Berdyayev.... To our very deep regret their voices were lost in the thunder of guns and the crackle of rifle fire and they could not shout down the rustle of death sentences and the organizers of meetings enthusiastically calling for the old world to be "destroyed to its foundations and then...."

Our great predecessors did not succeed, but we must! Because we have one enormous advantage over them — the bitter and so expensive experience the country has had as visible evidence that only under conditions of civil peace is it possible to emerge from the crisis situation in which Russia has found itself for the second time this century.

Does civil war threaten our country? That question is being heard increasingly frequently from the rostrums of parliament and meetings and from television screens and the pages of various publications. Let us be frank: There is cause for concern. The change in ideologies, the global repartition of property, the growth of the marginal strata — such processes do not pass in any state without leaving a trace. But to use favorite formulas from former political education textbooks I venture to assert that there is no fatal inevitability of civil war. Unless people are pushed toward it, unless passions are fueled, and compatriots set against each other.

For instance, the election campaigning has only just begun and already some of my journalist colleagues are donning the garb of Cassandra and linking the establishment of particular political forces at the levers of power directly with the prospects of civil war. Of course there are plenty of extremist forces in the country who spurn no means to catch fish in murky waters and we voters must think carefully when we make our choice. But nor should we provoke internecine war even on the most plausible pretexts.

Clearly, not one of the more than 40 electoral blocs and associations allowed to the second stage of the election campaign will promise the Russians anything bad, they are indeed not suicidal. But something else is also true: NO one yet has managed to make people happy by force. So today the task of breathing new life into the markedly decrepit social accord treaty seems very topical. An indefinite moratorium is needed on all kinds of extremist appeals and inflammatory actions from whatever political flank they may come.

The red flags and the banners with the czar's face should not divide us today. We paid too high a price for that confrontation in the past and it is criminal to fail to see that, to launch into new social experiments where the price is the lives of millions of Russians. Let brutality and blind injustice remain entirely in the past without permeating the future, we repeat after the good Russian writer and great patriot Vladimir Korolenko....

Military Official Profiles Rail-Borne ICBM System

MM2011161395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Nov 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Ilshat Baychurin under the "Tomorrow Is Rocket Troops and Artillery Day" rubric: "Something Born To Fly Crawls out of the Forest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If such a train designated by a letter rushes past you with a weighty rumble, do not be in a hurry to claim that you have "seen lots" of such things. [Article is accompanied by photographs of rail missile launch tube in upright position, train in snowy landscape]

This train really does not differ from thousands of its brothers in either its external appearance or its color. But only a few specialists initiated into top military secrets know that beneath the train's external "civilian" camouflage is concealed a formidable force called the railroad combat missile system.

After the end of the "Cold War" and the establishment of trusting relations between the former potential enemies our country no longer makes any particular secret of the existence of railroad combat missile systems. Even some specifications and performance characteristics of the system have been made public. It is now known, for example, that a nuclear armored train consists of several launchers for RS-22 ICBM's with multiple reentry vehicles called SS- 24 in the West, or Scalpel. The Scalpel's launch weight has also been revealed. It stands at just over 100 tonnes, and the missile's range is approximately 10,000 km.

For comparison, let us point out that the analogous U.S. MX missile is inferior to the Russian one in terms of many parameters, including launch mass. The RS-22 is 23.8 meters long and has a diameter of 2.4 meters. Each missile has 10 reentry vehicles. Most importantly, the accuracy of the nuclear warhead's hitting the prescribed target is, as missilemen say, "on the peg," i.e. a "bull's eye." Maybe this is why the Americans nicknamed this missile the Scalpel.

Each railroad combat missile system is designed for lengthy autonomous performance of alert duty on patrol routes. In addition to the cars where the missiles themselves are hidden, the railroad train has cars which accommodate a dining room and a mobile kitchen. One of the cars is earmarked for rest time for personnel not on alert duty. It consists of the compartments to which we are accustomed, the only difference being that they contain additional built-in third berths and a foyer with a television set and tables for board games. In addition, there are air conditioners and a shower. Provision is also made for a technical maintenance car.

As regards the personnel of the railroad missile complex, each serviceman has a strictly defined range of official duties. Great responsibility is entrusted to the combat launch crew, but those who ensure the working of the harmonious mechanism of this unique train of its kind also have a hard time. The people who are responsible for the train's movement, communications, guarding, and for material and medical provision for the missile-carrying train perform particularly strenuous service. Considering that the trains are designed for lengthy autonomous movement, success depends on the quality of everyone's work.

It is hardly necessary to demonstrate that a multitonne train with such a specific load must be driven by professionals of the highest caliber. Therefore the engineers are mainly officers who are aces at their trade. There has not been a single accident or disaster in the whole history of the railroad combat missile complexes' existence.

The formidable missile trains are now practically immobile. The point is that, in accordance with the treaty signed by Gorbachev and Reagan five years ago, in peacetime the railroad combat missile complexes may maneuver over an area of only a few square kilometers. But the missiles can be launched from any point on the route.

The missilemen confirmed their high level of combat readiness in the last end-of-training-period performance evaluation. They successfully fulfill the tasks of performing alert duty, demonstrating that the formidable weapons are in safe hands.

Military Space Forces Council Hold Session

MM2111093195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Makashin: "Orbital Grouping Under Reliable Control"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An expanded military council of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Military Space Forces with the presence of all commanders of formations, groups, and units was held in Krasnoznamensk. Summing up the results of combat training, Colonel General; V. Ivanov, commander of the Military Space Forces, noted that as a whole the tasks set by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry had been fulfilled.

Colonel General A. Bogdanov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, who took part in the council's work, noted the very high level of professional training of the specialists at the main control center under the command of Lieutenant General A. Zapadinskiy, who ensure the steady control of the orbital grouping.

Yeltsin Signs Law on Utilization of Nuclear Power

LD2111125295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1038 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin signed a law "On the utilization of nuclear power." The law, which was passed by the State Duma on 20 November 1995, defines the legal basis and principles of regulating relations that develop in the process of utilizing nuclear power. It aims to protect people's health and life and the environment, and to protect property when using nuclear power, and it is designed to help enhance international safety standards in utilizing this power, says the report of the head of state's press service received today.

Specialists Resolve Liquid Nuclear Waste Problem

LD2111104895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0803 GMT 21 Nov 95

[By Yevgeniy Lents]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK November 21 (ITAR-TASS) — The problem of the storage of liquid nuclear waste has practically been resolved at the Pacific Fleet of Russia. This became possible thanks to the introduction of a new technological cycle of the utilization of the liquid radioactive waste, developed by specialists from the Russian Navy in cooperation with Russian scientists.

The unloading of liquid radioactive waste from the TNT-5 tanker, used as a storage facility, for further processing at the Sharya installation has been successfully completed, Valeriy Danilyan, head of the radiological, chemical and biological protection service of the Pacific Fleet, told Tass. Last summer those installations helped utilize 3,000 cubic metres of liquid radioactive waste with a complex chemical composition, which makes 90 per cent of all the nuclear waste, possessed by the Pacific Fleet.

The emergency situation took shape in the Far East in February 1994 because of the absence of a technological cycle for the utilization of liquid radioactive waste. All the tanks, where nuclear waste was stored, were filled to capacity, because the Russian Navy stopped dumping it into the World Ocean. In order to resolve the problem as soon as possible, a most up-to-date technology of the utilization of liquid radioactive waste was mastered at one of the units of the Pacific Fleet. Representatives of the fleet and scientists from a number of research institutions, including Ecoatom, Biotechprogress and the St. Petersburg Chemical-Biological University took part in that work.

According to Hero of the Soviet Union Captain Vladimir Bulygin, who is in charge of the work for the utilization of liquid radioactive waste, "the utilization of liquid nuclear waste has stopped being an acute problem at the Pacific Fleet." A report was sent to Commander-In-Chief of the Russian Navy Feliks Gromov, recommending for decorations the specialists, who helped resolve the problem. Meanwhile, the technological cycle of the utilization of nuclear waste continues to be upgraded. In the opinion of Captain Bulygin, the obtained results showed that the introduction of that scientific development was extremely promising. It ensured the supply of specially purified water to naval ships and units for their nuclear power installations, as well as high-quality drinkable and technical water with minimal expenditures.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Asks Duma To Revise Deposit Insurance Bill

LD2011161595 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin his comments concerning the draft federal law on mandatory insurance of people's bank deposits, the presidential press service said.

President Yeltsin says the function of a future law should be to provide protection for people's bank deposits, whereas the proposed draft concerns primarily the establishment and operation of a federal fund for the mandatory insurance of deposits, its structure, management and other questions that may and must be reflected in the constituent documents, and not in a legal act.

President Yeltsin said that of the 56 articles of the bill a mere five concerned the protection of investors' interests and matched the bill's title.

President Yeltsin wants the bill revised.

Russia's Choice To Table Grachev No Confidence Issue

LD2011204695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday, the Russia's Choice Duma faction intends to table the issue of no confidence in Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. This is connected with the minister's recent statement that the military should react to the activities of the deputies who voted for changes to the Law on Military Service. At a meeting with a group of generals, Grachev called on them to campaign for the government bloc Russia Is Our Home.

Sergey Yushenkov, the chairman of the Duma Defense Committee, is convinced that in doing so, Grachev has violated the Russian Federation law on defense.

[Begin Yushenkov recording] The defense minister did not have the right to use his position to campaign in military subunits and formations urging people to vote for one bloc or another. Obviously, the defense minister did this, and in connection with this, I think, there is a quite enough activity on the part of the defense minister to justify appealing to the General Prosecutor's Office in connection with the violation of the Law on Defense, and requesting that the president should dismiss the defense minister from his post for the activities that run contrary to the law. I think that the president will be fully justified in doing so. [end recording]

Duma Chairman Rybkin Interviewed on Duma's Record

MM2111101595 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 18 Nov 95 p 2

[Interview with Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin by Viktor Khatuntsev; place and date not given: "Ivan Rybkin: Russia's Hope Is Pinned on the Power of the Law" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only a matter of weeks are left before the end of the Russian Federation State Duma's work. One of parliament's most important spheres of activity has been and remains legislation on economic questions. What has it been possible to achieve, what problems have still not met with a legal solution, what elements of the experience that has been gained would be of benefit to the deputies whom we will elect in December? State Duma Chairman Ivan Petrovich Rybkin ponders these matters.

[Khatuntsev] What is your assessment of the fruitfulness of the State Duma's influence on the country's economy over the last two years?

[Rybkin] I think that parliament has succeeded in becoming a constitutionally competent organ that has to be taken into account in the adoption of the most important, fateful decisions. In the broadest terms the Fifth State Duma has in many respects exceeded the expectations of its "founding fathers," so to speak. It was originally assigned the role of a kind of constituent assembly: It would adopt a package of electoral laws and set the scene for the Sixth Duma — a fully fledged parliament. However, deputies did not agree to the status of a transitional formation, and anyhow the dynamics of life with its unpredictable turnarounds did not permit this.

It would have been strange to say the least and also simply irresponsible to ignore the serious disarray of the laws regulating the country's economic development. After all, for several years the state budget had not been adopted — this on an economic area extending from the Baltic to the Pacific with a population of 150 million! It proved possible to adopt the 1994 budget, albeit late, and the budget for the current year of 1995 was approved back in March and is in force.

The State Duma has now approved the 1996 budget.

I believe that this budget should have five priority, mandatory spheres. Above all support for commodity producers. After all, in our unruly production activity we will soon reach the point where we cease to produce Russian goods.

Even before the ratification of the budget there is an extreme need to adopt a new tax code and to lighten the burden on commodity producers, both large-scale industrial producers and individuals, small-scale private operators, so to speak. And in general to give the country a harmonious tax system ensuring both that the state has funds and working people do not lose out.

The vital importance of the next three spheres, I think, needs no particular explanation — the social sphere, the defense sector, and the strengthening of law and order. But regulation here must be extremely careful. After all, even in recent years we spent money on what we like wherever we liked, gave considerable funds to whoever we liked, and now neither the control administration nor investigative organs can make head or tail of things.

It was to avoid such leaks and mishandling of budget funds that the Comptroller's Office was set up and given the rights of all-embracing, all-pervading, and productive control. The office has the rank of a state structure, and I think the great professionalism of its personnel will lend it appropriate authority.

A most important step was the adoption of the Russian Federation Civil Code. Essentially this is the country's second, economic constitution regulating new legal relations in conditions of the diversity of forms of ownership and the diversity of forms of economic management. And I would insistently advise every citizen to take a look at this impressive law which runs to almost 500 articles.

[Khatuntsev] But so far as I am aware, only the first part of the Civil Code has been adopted. Will you have time to ratify the second part?

[Rybkin] The second part has also been prepared, and we are insisting that the president and the government submit it for examination: The initiative must come from them. After all, in the majority of countries with much more substantial democratic, parliamentary experience than ours, 80 or 90 percent of draft laws are submitted by the president or other head of state and the executive.

[Khatuntsev] There is considerable scope for departmental lobbying here, especially as practical experience shows the extent to which the apparatus is tempted to interpret legislation as it sees fit with the help of all kinds of instructions.

[Rybkin] But there are sufficiently competent people on the State Duma committees to minimize opportunities for the loose interpretation of laws. Our task and our vocation is to elaborate principles of economic activity that combine the interests of the state and society and regulate the powers of the authorities and the citizen. A Land Code has been elaborated as well as the Water Code and Air Code. Its economic potential is enormous, because the prosperity of millions of Russians depends on the right to possess and farm land. Since 1861 legal relations on the land have been regulated by fragmentary acts that have nothing to do with legislation but are full of voluntarist rulings dictated by short- term expediency. We must place all legal relations on the land on a long-term footing. Here too we are taking a very important step: Essentially all land is being divided into three categories — land in citizens' private ownership, city lands, and agricultural land. But to divide it into categories is only half the job. We need clear and strict gradations of rights and duties.

[Khatuntsev] At one time, when it was launching privatization, the government promised to turn virtually the whole population into property owners. Vouchers were handed out and vanished as though into thin air, and at the present stage of post-check privatization there is somehow no sign of ordinary working people among the bidders for plants and oil companies. And although millions of citizens nominally appear on the lists of shareholders, the struggle for the repartition of property is being conducted by financial and entrepreneurial structures — and furthermore, structures with a clearly criminal tinge. So maybe there was no point in misleading people with attractive-sounding promises and instead it should have been openly said: This is not for you, comrades, but in order to cultivate nomenklatura-industrial capital?

[Rybkin] I was and I remain a supporter of the option for distributing the value of property that was enshrined back in 1990 by the law "On Individual Accounts (Checks)."

A simple scheme was proposed: Individual ruble accounts are opened for each person, and then funds are issued as required in the form of a check, as a whole or in parts. This kind of solution of the problem had proved its worth in a number of countries that had experienced similar processes. But in our country we overdid it, thereby causing social tension.

Adjustments will be made to this process, and the president incorporated the overwhelming majority of amendments proposed by the Duma in his edict "On Privatization." Its last provision states that it operates until the adoption of a federal law by the State Duma and Federation Council. Citizens must be given a choice, and not be penned into a single scenario for privatization.

[Khatuntsev] You mentioned the upper chamber, and an associated idea immediately came to mind: A pupil has done a difficult piece of work, but he is told: "It is no good." To take a recent example — the Federation Council's rejection of the law on the division of output, which our potential foreign investors are waiting impatiently for....

[Rybkin] Yes, the law is very important, and the State Duma did considerable work on it before adopting it. However, there is a constitutional procedure for adopting highly important state acts, and the Federation Council is exercising its right, just as the president enjoys the right of veto. A particular situation should not be overdramatized, especially as rejections are usually carefully argued and do not affect basic principles. Sometimes simply editorial amendments are enough.

Nevertheless, to continually add to the portfolio of documents returned for further work is to delay the solution of problems long overdue for action....

[Khatuntsev] For instance, the laws on economic crimes, on organized crime....

[Rybkin] Quite right. The new Criminal Code includes articles on punishment for bogus entrepreneurial activity, for instance, bogus bankruptcy and machinations involving securities. The State Duma has adopted laws on combating corruption, on combating organized crime, and on protecting judges, personnel of law enforcement agencies, victims, and witnesses. Unfortunately most of these laws were rejected, although not many questions arose when they were being agreed between the legal administrations of the State Duma and the Presidential Staff.

Laws on the indexation of pensions, on the minimum wage, and on the subsistence minimum, in other words, a package relating to social protection of the population, are also at various points in the pipeline.

More than ever we need success, or at least a glimmer of light in the aspiration for a better life. Whatever people may say, our people nevertheless have a special character and are prepared to surmount any difficulties or privations if they are sure that success can be achieved, and not in a hundred years or so, but tomorrow, or at most in a few years. Otherwise Russia cannot be budged.

Regional Affairs

Attack Against Dudayev Reported; Dudayev 'Alive'

LD2011132295 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack was carried out against Dzhokhar Dudayev last night. POSTFAKTUM learned this from informed sources. Dudayev is alive, but there are casualties among his bodyguards. It is not known who carried out the terrorist act. [video shows still photograph of Dudayev]

Assassination Attempt Unconfirmed

LD2011134995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1315 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 20 November (ITAR-TASS) — Members of the Chechen delegation at the Groznyy talks did not confirm today reports by some mass media about an attempt on Dudayev's life.

The Russian delegation also told ITAR-TASS that they "know nothing about it".

Neither has the Chechen Interior Ministry confirmed the assassination attempt.

Assassination Attempt Denied by Yarikhanov

LD2111141295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 21 (INTERFAX) — Chechnya's chief negotiator at peace talks with the federal authorities Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov has denied reports about an attempt on Dzhokhar Dudayev's life allegedly made on Sunday night.

Yarikhanov told INTERFAX in Groznyy Tuesday that on Monday morning he met with Dudayev. Dudayev was in his office busy performing his duties, said Yarikhanov.

Basayev Hints at Terrorist Operations in Moscow

MM2111135595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Rotar: "Shamil Continues To Intimidate Moscow. The Situation in Chechnya Has Been Sharply Exacerbated in Connection With the Scheduling of the Election Date"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vedenskiy Rayon-Groznyy — An attempt was made on the life of the Chechen Republic's head of government at an intersection in Groznyy at 0800 hours 20 November 1995. Colonel Anatoliy Nikishin, leader of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Joint Staffs Command and Control Group (GUOSh), told IZVESTIYA's correspondent, who arrived on the scene, that the terrorist act was committed with the help of a remote-controlled explosive device. At the same time persons unknown opened fire from two sides on the motorcade in which Government Chairman Doku Zavgayev was traveling. As a result of the terrorist act, two bodyguards of the head of the Chechen Republic were injured, while Zavgayev escaped with minor injuries and got down to work the same day. Four vehicles were damaged.

At about the same time the motorcade in which associates of the Russian Federation's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic were traveling was fired upon. There were no casualties.

In conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent Doku Zavgayev denied that these acts of terrorism were connected with the election of the head of the Chechen Republic scheduled for 17 December. "The hand behind this terrorist act is absolutely identical with the one behind the attempts on Romanov and Lobov, and yet there were no election preparations at that time. This terrorist act was committed by those forces which do not want peace to come or the combat operations to end," Doku Zavgayev believes.

The mood among Dudayev's gunmen, however, makes me doubt what Zavgayev said. I have just returned from southern Chechnya's mountainous districts controlled by Dudayev's gunmen.

"If we are men, we must not hold this election. I do not know who committed this terrorist act, but I doubt that anyone will take responsibility for it," Aslan Maskhadov, leader of the Dudayev troops staff, believes.

"We will not allow any election. Approximately 150,000 Russian soldiers are stationed on Chechnya's territory today. Under your laws they can participate in the election, and there are quite enough of them to make this election be deemed valid," Shirvani Basayev, commander of Dudayev's troops in Vedeno, told IZVESTIYA's correspondent.

"I believe that it is unrealistic to hold the election in Chechnya. For the time being we are not undertaking any sabotage — unlike Russia, we are observing the armistice agreement. But, understand, I simply cannot control the actions of all my fighters. People are at the end of their tether, and they can no longer tolerate the mayhem perpetrated by Russian troops. Dzhokhar Dudayev, our president, has already declared our attitude to this election. But I will not say how I personally will act — I have decided not to share my plans with journalists anymore," Shamil Basayev, commander of the Dudayev troops' eastern front and "hero" of Budennovsk, added to what his brother said. "You know, one guy who had never been to Moscow related his dream to me. He described fighting in some city and spoke of monstrous explosions. From his descriptions I realized that this was Leninskiy Prospekt in Moscow," the commander of the Dudayev troops' eastern front told IZVESTIYA.

We took our leave in a somewhat strange manner. My colleague, a U.S. journalist, said that he was expecting Shamil Basayev to visit him in Moscow and was hoping to convert him to Christianity.

"Fine, we will continue our discussion in the ruins of the Kremlin," Shamil Basayev took his leave of us.

Premier: Chechen Talks Will Continue; No Quarter Given

LD2011172395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Report on interview with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by unidentified correspondent; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] In the government house today, Viktor Chernomyrdin, replying to a question about the prospects for the development of the situation in Chechnya after the attack on Doku Zavgayev, said the following:

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] "In the first place, we must investigate what happened there. They have flown out to investigate it. We will organize talks and we will hold talks and we will use everything, every method. But that does not mean that...[pauses] Voices are heard now saying that they are firing there. I say once again that we will hold talks. We will use the talks. But I say once again that this does not mean that quarter will be given to anyone. Nothing of the sort! All means will be applied against those who use that. They will get it! [end recording]

[Correspondent] The prime minister accused Dzhokhar Dudayev and his entourage of exacerbating the situation.

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] They are pushing toward war. That is what they want! They do not hide that. Dudayev and that whole pack say that quite openly! What is there to find out and bring to light here? They want that. They want war! And that cannot be allowed! [end recording]

[Correspondent] The reporters were also interested in Chernomyrdin's attitude to the victory of socialist Aleksandr Kwasniewski in the presidential elections in Poland. The prime minister said that it was unlikely that it will change anything in the interstate relations between Russia and Poland that were developing quite well. Journalists met the head of government after he visited an exhibition in the foyer of the government house dedicated to the work of reconnaissance detachments. [passage omitted]

Zavgayev Determined to Meet With Dudayev Side

LD2111140895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 21 (INTERFAX) — The attempt on the life of the Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev Monday will not undermine his determination to establish contacts with supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev for the purpose of peacefully settling the situation in Chechnya, Zavgayev's press secretary Ruslan Martagov told INTERFAX Tuesday.

He said Zavgayev was planning such a meeting for Tuesday to discuss termination of armed confrontation and surrender of arms. However, the meeting was postponed for reasons unrelated to Monday's terrorist act. Zavgayev is expected to meet the Dudayev side in the next few days.

The previous meeting took place last Saturday, Martagov said. "Dudayev's people realize that the continuation of their efforts leads to a war against their own nation," the spokesman said, adding there is no unanimity in the Dudayev camp.

Martagov said that at the last meeting the Dudayev side focused on their security after the surrender of arms. "Impetus is needed to start large-scale surrender of arms by Dudayev's formations," Martagov said.

Army Commander Blames Dudayev for Attack on Zavgayev

LD2011143695 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint group of federal forces temporarily in Chechnya, blamed today's terrorist act against Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Government, on Dzhokhar Dudayev. The general told RIA-Novosti that in the near future security will be stepped up along the routes taken by cars of the Chechen Government members and members of the administration of the president's special envoy in Chechnya.

At the same time Shkirko did not rule out further terrorist acts, since it is virtually impossible to check the entire route of a motorcade.

Chechen Government Issues Statement on Zavgayev Attack

LD2011154795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1418 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kharchenko and Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 20 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — After the attempt on the life of Doku Zavgayev, chairman of the government of the Chechen Republic, the governmental press service circulated a statement today. It says that "this criminal act is directed at further destabilization of the situation and the physical elemination of people who are making every effort to stop military actions, to restore housing and public facilities, and to create conditions for people to live in peace and accord."

The statement stresses that intra-Chechen dialogue and the methods of civic diplomacy which Doku Zavgayev advocates do not correspond with the plans of those who are trying to resume large-scale military actions on Chechen soil with the help of terror and sabotage.

The authors of the statement believe that the Chechen people ought to know that the terrorist acts are carried out precisely against those politicians and statesmen who are trying to stop the escalation of war and prevent fratrice. This was the case with Anatoliy Romanov and Oleg Lobov and now a terrorist act has been carried out against Zavgayev.

The statement contains an appeal to consolidate efforts for peace and accord: "Only unity, mutual respect, and patience can help us to emerge with dignity from the present civic and political and military crisis."

Mufti Condemns Attempt to Kill Zavgayev

LD2111113895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 21 Nov 95

[By Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, November 21 (ITAR-TASS) — Mufti of Chechnya Magomed Beshi Rakhadji Arsnukayev in very harsh terms condemned today the attempt to assassinate the republic's head Doku Zavgayev on Monday. "Murder or an attempt on his life is a blasphemy and can not be justified under any circumstances", the Mufti said in his speech on Groznyy television today.

Condemnations of the act of terrorism are also being received from different areas of Chechnya. Prefect of Chechen Urus-Martan region Yusup Elmurzayev told ITAR-TASS "Elections in our area will be held on the schedule date of December 17, notwithstanding any counter-action or threat".

"There is no force capable of compelling us now to give up the urge to express our free desire", the leader of the Urus-Martan area emphasized.

Zavgayev: Attempt Not Election-Related

LD2011182495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Now for a report by our special correspondents from Chechnya, from the Chechen capital, from the scene of the attempt on the life of Chechen Prime Minister Zavgayev. Here are the details.

[Unidentified correspondent] A powerful explosive device was set off at approximately 0800 this morning. [passage omitted: known details of explosion over video of cars, blood stains on ground; local woman says she heard an explosion] In an exclusive interview with the NTV television company, Doku Zavgayev said that he did not yet know specifically who was responsible for the attack. But there is no doubt that it was needed by those who are striving to destabilize the situation in the republic.

[Begin Zavgayev recording] It is needed only by those who are not happy with the fragile peace that exists in the republic, who are not happy that we have begun to draw closer to civil accord, who are not happy to see that hostilities to all intents and purposes have been halted here. As you can see they are not behind the scenes. Now there are some who are trying here to throw in the idea that it is allegedly connected with the elections. It has nothing to do with the elections! There was no talk about the elections when there was an attack on [Oleg] Lobov. The attack on [General Anatoliy] Romanov was not connected with the elections, that is on people who really and sincerely want and are doing their utmost to ensure that there is peace here. [end recording]

[Correspondent] A few hours after the incident, Aslan Maskhadov, head of Dudayev's armed formations, speaking to journalists, made it clear that he did not know anything about who had organized the terrorist act, but that he and his supporters still intended to hinder the holding of the elections in the republic. Today, Oleg Lobov, plenipotentiary representative of the president of Russia, told journalists that there will undoubtedly be attempts to hinder the elections. But the elections will take place because today that is the only means of providing the republic with legitimate power.

[Begin Lobov recording] Statements made — and you know who it is that is making them — about the elections being a farce, that the troops should leave, and so on and so forth, that we will hold people answerable, that we demand that UN troops should be brought in — probably these are the forces. What other forces need to be sought? All the others are obviously just carrying out orders. They may be nameless. But the ideologues are well known. [end recording] [video shows scene of attack, Zavgayev speaking, Lobov at news conference]

Lobov Comments on 'Aggravated' Situation in Chechnya

LD2011164395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — The situation in Chechnya has aggravated since the date for elections of the Chechen leader was set, Secretary of the Russian Security Council and Russian Presidential Envoy in Chechnya Oleg Lobov said in Groznyy Monday.

At the same time he said "he would not link the attempt on the life of Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev made on Monday morning in Groznyy with the elections of the head of the republic set for December 17."

Moscow is not dictating the date for elections to the Russian State Duma on Chechen territory, Lobov also said, and he believes that "if need be, they could be held later."

Lobov believes "the Dudayev side will hamper the elections but these attempts will not be intensive enough to stop them."

He also said that the question on financing the election campaign in Chechnya has been decided and around 70 percent of constituencies "are practically ready to hold the elections: The lists of voters are made and election commissions are formed."

Lobov believes that the elections will make it possible "to state the legitimacy of power in the republic, which will make some questions obsolete since the head of the republic will be elected by the people." He said that elections will be held on an alternative basis, will be democratic, and Russian and international observers will be present at them.

Speaking about federal troops deployed on the republic's territory taking part in the elections, Lobov said that "electioneering in the armed units is banned and the army is outside politics."

Lobov Admits Chechen Opposition to December Elections

LD2011131995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1142 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 20 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "In the last few days the situation in Chechnya has worsened but I would not link this only with the announcement of elections," Oleg Lobov, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in Chechnya said today at a news conference in Groznyy. Today's incident, according to him, is a continuation of the work of those forces interested in instability in the republic.

Referring to the process of restoring the economy and social services in Chechnya, Oleg Lobov said that the pace of work is increasing, despite all the problems associated with financing. Additional difficulties, according to him, are being created by attacks on construction workers who have come to Groznyy. Now, he said, it has been decided to increase the number of local construction workers employed in restoration works. One must not, however, rely only on them as this would violate the system of financing the work.

Oleg Lobov said that Boris Yeltsin, with whom he met recently at the hospital, takes the view that Moscow is not dictating any kind of date for holding elections in Chechnya but would prefer the general date set for Russia — 17 December.

In the opinion of Oleg Lobov, "opposition to the elections could be strong but not strong enough to derail them." He also thinks that most issues linked with the organizational work for the elections has been resolved.

"Elections will allow for the establishment of a legitimate power in Chechnya," Oleg Lobov said. In his opinion they will offer choice, be free, and be held with the participation of international observers. "This is the most powerful stabilizing factor," Oleg Lobov stressed, "After the elections both the official government delegation of the Russian Federation and participants at the talks from the Chechen side will be increased, primarily by the active inclusion of representatives of the legal government of the Chechen republic."

Oleg Lobov ruled out the possibility that Russian servicemen and officers present in Chechnya and who are at the same time also voters could have a major influence on the outcome of the elections.

Filatov Favors Flexible Approach to Chechen Elections

LD2011175895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov told a news conference in Moscow Monday that Chechnya had not been discussed at his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in the Central Clinical Hospital earlier today.

Expressing his personal opinion, Filatov said that the decision to hold elections of a Chechen leader was taken when the situation in Chechnya was calmer than today, and now that it is aggravating, "it is necessary to analyze the situation and ask for the opinion of Doku Zavgayev."

Filatov believes that "it is absolutely necessary" to hold elections for a Chechen leader in order to legitimize authorities in Chechnya.

"I do not rule out major provocations," said Filatov. He believes that "if the situation continues aggravating," it will cast doubt on the expediency of holding the elections now.

Filatov said that he favors a flexible approach where the situation is constantly analyzed in order to decide "what must be done to improve and not aggravate it."

No Candidates Registered For Chechen Chief Executive

LD2011175795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of the Chechen Republic Kerim Arsakhanov has told INTERFAX that his commission has not registered a single candidate for elections to determine the republic's chief executive.

The elections are scheduled to coincide with the Russian parliamentary elections on December 17. He voiced confidence that the republic's current leader Doku Zavgayev will have rivals at the elections of December 17.

"Such people have already come to the election commission but we were unable to register anyone of them because we have not yet received the text of the law on the elections of the head of the Chechen republic," said Arsakhanov. This law was passed by the Chechen Supreme Soviet on November 18.

Arsakhanov said that the creation of election commissions has practically been completed in the Chechen Republic in 10 out of 20 districts. "Technically, preparations for the elections are 60-70 percent completed," he said. "I am sure we shall manage to prepare and hold them," believes the chairman of the republic's election commission.

According to official estimates, there are 662,300 voters in the republic. Twenty territorial election commissions have been formed and 420 ballot stations created.

Arsakhanov expressed confidence that despite the threats of separatists led by Dzhokar Dudayev, "the politically mature voters will take part in the voting on December 17." The ballot stations will be guarded to prevent provocations on the part of Dudayev supporters.

The Chechen diaspora from other regions of the country will be able to take part in the elections, he said. It is planned to create ballot stations at places densely populated by Chechens with the consent of the local authorities.

The Chechen Central Electoral Commission is short of money. According to Arsakhanov, the Russian CEC has not yet transferred to Chechnya the promised 2 billion rubles for the election campaign.

Chechnya Assembly Sets Conditions for Holding Elections

LD2011150195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — The Assembly of Chechnya's political parties and movements, campaigning for Chechen independence, stated that elections to Russia's State Duma and of a Chechen leader were impossible in Chechnya.

Representative of the Dudayev government Movladiy Udugov told INTERFAX that the Assembly adopted a statement Monday that says free and democratic elections might be held "only after Chechnya is fully liberated from Russian invaders on the basis of the constitution of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, in strict accordance with international law and in the presence of international observers."

Udugov said that the Assembly, which consists of 33 parties and movements, insists on unconditional and complete withdrawal of occupying troops from Chechnya, and on unconditional implementation of the military agreement that provides for forming units to patrol all of the republic's populated areas.

The document also demands that all residents of the republic, detained by the federal authorities, be freed.

Udugov announced that meetings in protest against the Groznyy authorities' decision to hold elections to the

State Duma and of a Chechen leader were held in many regions Sunday. Demonstrations continued on Monday, he said.

A campaign against setting up polling stations began in individual villages.

Dudayev Spokesman Criticizes Grachev Recruit Proposal

LD2011152395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — A proposal by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to help the Chechen authorities in Groznyy form interior units from ethnic Chechen recruits proves "his erroneous estimation of the Chechen situation and lack of knowledge of the Chechen people's psychology," Dudayev spokesman Movladi Udugov told INTERFAX Monday.

"No matter how much Grachev and his circle want Chechens to kill Chechens, this will not happen," stressed Udugov. "The simple reason why there will be no Afghanistan in Chechnya is that almost all Chechens are each other's relatives."

He thinks that the authorities will fail to recruit 20,000 Chechens to the interior troops, as suggested by Grachev. "Even if they draft 20,000 Chechens, the recruits would turn their guns against the Russian troops," said Udugov.

Grachev suggested immediate help for Chechen government head Doku Zavgayev in the creation of interior units with Chechen recruits in an interview with the INDEPENDENT MILITARY REVIEW (a supplement of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) of November 18. In the minister's opinion, it is possible to draft about 20,000 Chechens to "settle the Chechen conflict by Chechens themselves."

Federal Command, Chechens Discuss Exchange of Prisoners

LD2011151895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — An unofficial meeting was held in Groznyy on Monday morning between representatives of the federal forces and Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The sides discussed an exchange of POWs, according to INTERFAX sources.

Earlier, leader of the Dudayev delegation to the peace talks Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov told INTERFAX that the Chechen side had proposed exchanging 14 federal servicemen for 140 militants detained during combat operations and kept in detention centers.

Dudayev's representatives told INTERFAX that they were displeased with the low level of federal representatives participating in the talks.

"The level of these people complicates reaching an agreement on the question, because they have to hold regular consultations with higher-up leaders," they said.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Authorizes Precious Metals Sale To Fund Pensions

LD2011181595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text]MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree authorizing the sale of precious metals to provide extra money to the Pension Fund, said Deputy Russian Prime Minister Yuri Yarov. He believes the measure "will allow to fully pay all pensions for November."

Yarov said that he visited Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Central Clinical Hospital earlier Monday to discuss the social situation in the country.

He admitted that the social situation had been unfavorable in early 1995. Salaries were raised 30 percent as late as in March, for the first time in nine months, and the government managed to repay all the raised salaries only in August.

However, the 54 percent increase of salaries in the public sector from September 1 and an additional 34 percent increase from November 1 have improved the situation, said Yarov. He said that the measures allowed to reduce the number of Russians with incomes below the subsistence level from 30 percent to 25 percent of the total population, or to 37 million people.

Yarov said Yeltsin believes that such a rate of income stabilization is rather slow, especially for the poorly paid categories of the population. However, the deputy prime minister said that the government will have more opportunities to pursue social policy in 1996.

The government will have to do everything to achieve a major reduction in the number of people with incomes below the subsistence level, said Yarov. He said the president pointed out the need to create a single pensions system in Russia, in accordance with the recently adopted law on local self-government. According to Yarov, "the government will have to conduct an analysis of this issue and put everything in order."

Yeltsin Veto on State Shares Law Explained

MM2011154295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Nov 95 p 2

[Feature comprising letter from Russian President Yeltsin to State Duma Chairman Rybkin, followed by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI commentary, under the general heading: "Presidential Veto. Deputies Could Have Undermined the Basis for Augmenting the Budget by Their Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yeltsin letter] To State Duma Chairman I.P. Rybkin, Federal Assembly State Duma.

[From] The President of the Russian Federation
11 November 1995
The Kremlin, Moscow.
No. Pr-1624.

In accordance with Part 3 of Article 107 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I am returning the rejected Federal Law "On the Handling of Blocks of Shares in Joint-Stock Companies Formed in the Privatization Process Assigned to Federal Ownership."

The federal law that was submitted was adopted by the State Duma 6 October 1995 and approved by the Federation Council 25 October 1995.

It must be noted that the implementation of the law in question will entail a change in the state's commitments and additional expenditure to be covered by the federal budget, and furthermore, the income base of the federal budget is decreased, and therefore the law in question could be implemented only given a Russian Federation Government decision [zaklyucheniye]. However, there has been no Russian Federation government decision on this law. Consequently, the federal law submitted was adopted in violation of Part 3 of Article 104 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

In effect, this law envisages the possibility of the sale, pledge as security, or transfer to trust management of blocks of shares in joint-stock companies created in the privatization process that are assigned to federal ownership only in the cases, under the procedure, and on the terms established by a federal law. At present there is no such federal law, which de facto makes it impossible for the Russian Federation Government to exercise its constitutional powers in managing federal property. This is a violation of Point "d" of Article 114 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

Article 2 of the law contains the words "until their sale, including pledge as security or transfer for trust management." This wording establishes that the pledge of shares or their transfer to trust management are special cases of their sale. This premise contravenes Part 1 of the Russian Federation Civil Code, notably Article 209 and Articles 334-358.

It must be noted that by and large the law is of a prohibitive nature, and entirely eliminates the existing mechanism for the handling of shares in federal ownership without establishing a new mechanism, which in turn will dramatically slow down the privatization process and reduce revenue from privatization coming into the federal budget. Furthermore, the implementation of this law will entail additional expenditure from the federal budget, since the state will be forced to compensate for losses arising as a result of the state not carrying out its commitments.

In addition, the law contains contradictions of an economic nature.

The preamble to the law being examined links it to the strategic and economic interests of the Russian Federation. Yet its content essentially contravenes Russia's interests in terms of the efficient management of property and the interests of the provision of monies for the federal budget.

At present there is a real possibility of ensuring the efficient management of blocks of shares in federal ownership until they are sold. It is precisely the elimination of inefficient management of state property that would be in line with Russia's strategic economic interests today.

Holding auctions for the right to conclude credit, security, and commission contracts will ensure guaranteed revenue for the budget on a scale that will help solve the problem of financing the country's economy this year.

I believe that the adoption of this law will be damaging to Russia's strategic economic interests.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Commentary

The president has seen the law presented by the deputies as threatening to undermine the basis for augmenting the budget.

Will the state continue to help enterprises to acquire efficient owners and attract investments while at the same time not forgetting about its own interests and augmenting the budget? That is the gist of the question which the president has answered in the affirmative, rejecting the Law "On the Handling of Blocks of Shares in Joint-Stock Companies Formed in the Privatization Process Assigned to Federal Ownership."

"The rejected law was at variance with a whole series of documents which are already adopted and in force," Viktor Nekrutenko, chief of the privatization and flotation section in the government apparatus Ownership Department, said. "In the first place there is the Constitution, under which the right of management of state property belongs to the government. The law contravenes presidential edicts No. 478 on the guaranteed implementation of the budget and No. 889 on securities, and also other acts. In the first article, which 'bans the sale and pledge as security of blocks of shares assigned to federal ownership,' the deputies have canceled out, as it were, all the measures which the government is already implementing, and with great benefit to the budget."

For instance, state block of shares in "Surgutneftegaz" was pledged as security at an auction in Surgut recently. This allowed 400 billion rubles [R] to be brought into the budget. Furthermore, the winner of the auction committed himself to pay off this joint-stock company's debt to the tune of R1 billion. This is the "real" money that teachers, doctors, students, and pensioners are waiting for. Remember, according to the ratified law on the 1995 budget, privatization should bring the treasury R8.7 trillion. By their law, the deputies could have seriously undermined the basis for augmenting the budget.

It is with good reason that the president is recalling the change in the state's commitments and the additional expenditure connected with this. After all, certain share transactions have already been conducted. So what? Should contracts on buying and selling, securities, and the granting of credits now be repealed? Money channeled into the budget returned? But the main thing is that other sources of augmenting the state budget would have to be found for expenditure on the Army and the social sphere, and where could these be found?

According to Viktor Nekrutenko, deputies should issue a law which would regulate the government's activity in handling state blocks of shares, rather than banning it.

It would be a good idea to remove the parts which are illogical. It would also be desirable for the legislators to avoid lumping all the enterprises together, but to sort out in detail where there really is strategic output and where there is no such thing.

But it would be most correct of all to radically review the principles which the deputies have incorporated in the document rejected by the president. "Cosmetic repairs" are scarcely possible here.

Moscow, Bashkortostan Agree To Settle Debts

LD2011182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Bashkir President Murtaza Rakhimov met on Monday to agree on the mutual settlement of debts.

Rakhimov said in an interview Chernomyrdin had agreed in principle to let Bashkortostan keep as much money to be deducted into the federal budget as the federal government owed to republican enterprises.

President Rakhimov said that the Russian Defense Ministry owed Bashkir arms manufacturing plants about 29.5 billion rubles. To avoid social tensions at those enterprises Rakhimov suggested funding federal defense contracts from the republican budget and at the same time reducing deductions into the federal budgets accordingly. Rakhimov said that Chernomyrdin after the meeting instructed the Finance Ministry to look into the matter and support this proposal.

Rakhimov and Chernomyrdin also discussed the election campaign in Bashkortostan. Rakhimov told Chernomyrdin that three parties had the best chances in his republic: Russia Is Our Home, the Agrarian Party and the Communist Party of Russia.

International Affairs

Good Relations With Poland Looked For Under Kwasniewski

LD2011183295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOFIA, Nov 20 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Ukraine is certain about the successful development of relations with Poland under its new president, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told INTERFAX-UKRAINE in Sofia Monday. Udovenko is currently in Bulgaria on an official visit.

Udovenko expressed his confidence that "under the new president Poland will continue the policy aimed at strengthening cooperation between our countries."

According to preliminary estimates, Aleksander Kwasniewski, the leftist presidential candidate, got 54 percent of votes in the second round of presidential elections in Poland, thus winning the run-off against incumbent President Lech Walesa.

Udovenko recalled that Ukrainian leaders have "direct contacts and good relations" with the Democratic Left party, in particular with Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy.

He also said that "Ukraine must express gratitude to Polish President Lech Walesa for all he has done for the comprehension, especially in the West, of the fact that Ukraine is an independent state."

Moroz: Return of Polish Left May Affect Relations

LD2011201195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1930 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 20 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The election of Aleksander Kwasniewski as president of Poland is part of a natural process that is occurring in the post communist countries. This opinion was expressed at a news conference, which took place today with Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz. The latter is also the chairman of the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Moroz said left of center blocs are now developing in the countries of the former socialist camp.

"Naturally," the speaker stated, "the left-wing coming to power in Poland may, at the initial stage, affect Ukrainian-Polish relations."

The Ukrainian Parliament speaker intends visiting Poland in December to "explore the ground."

Meeting With Russian Experts on Ties Viewed

WS2011114095 Kiev ZERKALO NEDELI in Russian 11-17 Nov 95 p1

[Article by Yuliya Mostovaya: "About Weather in Kiev and Moscow, and Also About Those Who Make This Weather"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For starters, as is becoming of respectable people, let us talk about the weather. To be more precise, let us talk about frost. Some six months ago, frost appeared on the ground of Ukrainian-Russian relations. The two presidents' hot embrace in Sochi disappeared without a trace, and so did their agreement to regularly meet and consult. In reality, communications between Leonid Kuchma and Boris Yeltsin are mostly maintained by means of rare exchanges of letters and through the cold lenses of television cameras. The recent failure to meet in New York during the celebration of the UN anniversary, made us shiver again. The statement by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to the effect that without resolving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet Moscow does not intend to sign the interstate treaty with Ukraine does not add any warmth.

I would dare to suggest that high-level Ukrainian-Russian relations are being maintained at the zero level due to many subjective reasons. One president's disrespectful statements test the other president's patience, which does not make Ukrainian-Russian relations warmer.

Nevertheless, at the level close to the "ocean of masses" the temperature is approaching the boiling point. In particular, this was noticeable at the meeting of those who "make weather" in bilateral relations, particularly during the sixth Ukrainian-Russian conference: "Ukraine-Russia: Experience of Partnership and Peacemaking." The Russian delegation which arrived at the Pushcha Ozerna holiday center was comprised by Yuriy Baturin, the Russian president's national security adviser; Sergey Karaganov, president of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policy subordinated to Boris Yeltsin; as well as influential bankers, businessmen, and independent experts, who occasionally combine political consultations with service in Russia's various classified agencies.

The Ukrainian side was represented by Dmytro Vydrin, presidential adviser for issues of domestic policy; Leonid Kuchma's first aide Oleksandr Razumkov; Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk; businessmen and bankers who are almost as rich as their Russian colleagues, as well as appropriate experts in other fields.

Oleksandr Razumkov pointed out: "The peculiar nature of those kinds of meetings lies in the fact that opinions voiced there do not represent the official viewpoint. Those are the viewpoints of independent experts, which make discussions very interesting. I believe that one standpoint was of a special interest. It boiled down to mutual acknowledgement of the fact that there are no tangible obstacles hampering the normal development of Ukrainian- Russian relations. In particular, looking at things from either the military or political perspective, the issue of the Black Sea Fleet cannot impede the development of the entire complex of relations. The same can be said with regard to other disputable issues that seem impossible to overcome.

The participants in the meeting underscored that there are two models of developing bilateral relations. The first is aimed at the search for opportunities to cooperate; the other envisions conflicts in relations. Given that there are certain opportunistic forces that merely acknowledge the existence of problems at the current stage and do not do anything to resolve them, a number of experts representing the Ukrainian side analyzed the conflict scenario of developing Ukrainian-Russian relations. It turned out that a similar analysis had been conducted by the Russian side, too. According to those specialists who studied that analysis in detail, the consequences of this scenario of developing Ukrainian-Russian relations may be extremely dangerous and do not suit the interests of either side. In addition, it would be naive to believe that only two parties will be players in a confrontation game between Ukraine and Russia. It is evident that a third and a fourth party will appear, and it is still unclear what impact they may have on the development of bilateral relations. According to our estimates, 'guest players' will use the conflict in their own interests. This is one of the reasons for which Ukraine and Russia will benefit from a non-conflictive way of developing their relationship, which involves the search of mutually acceptable resolutions on all the currently existing issues."

According to Oleksandr Razumkov, the conflict model was not discussed more specifically: "Both the Ukrainian and Russian experts avoided further details. Yet, when the Ukrainian side raised that issue, Sergey Karaganov, who in a way admitted that a conflict relationship has no prospects, pointed out that 'Russia is qualitatively stronger than Ukraine.'" At the same time, the Russian expert believes that Russia will lose if it attempts to resolve the amassed disputable issues by forceful methods. According to Karaganov, Russia will lose in the same manner as the qualitatively stronger Soviet Union lost the cold war.

Meanwhile, despite the two sides' consent to follow the other, more peaceful path — which was voiced on both the official and nonofficial levels — one cannot disregard the existence of certain political trends in both Russia and Ukraine. Those trends substantially influence the arguments of common sense. For instance, at the every beginning of the meeting the Russians stated that despite opposition, they had managed to remove the Ukrainian issue from the agenda of Russia's election campaign. The Ukrainian participants immediately expressed doubt, citing examples which prove that Russia's all more or less influential parties and blocs involved in the election profit from the Ukrainian issue.

Very often, those are official politicians' statements made in the heat of the election fight that limit the opportunities of reaching an agreement by the two states' leaderships. Naturally, there is nothing good in that fact. However, it is not a tragedy either. If Ukraine fails to find common language with Moscow, it can still reach agreements with the Russian provinces which do not have imperial ambitions, yet have material economic interests, and material enterprises that need Ukrainian subassemblies, as well as material people who have to eat. The closer we get to capitalism, the more important trade and economic relations become in interstate relations. This deserves a more detailed discussion.

While experts who participate in official negotiations mostly waste their time on the wording of documents ("Sevastopol is the Russian Black Sea Fleet's naval vase" versus "the naval base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet is located in Sevastopol") the "My Friends" Club (this is how the participants in the Pushcha Ozerna meeting were wittily depicted by one of the Moscow bankers), mostly discussed images: Who are Ukraine and Russia — sisters, neighbors, partners, or spouses? The discussion was animated, as everyone was aware that some tangible meaning is hidden behind those epithets. Naturally, each side understood that meaning in its own manner.

While for the Ukrainian experts the essence lies in Ukraine's desire to have Moscow recognize its equal partnership status,on Russia's part, the Moscow intellectuals did not even mention that issue. According to them, strategic partnership amounts to two states' unanimous attitude toward a third state. Speaking in a sweet radio speaker voice, Sergey Karaganov, the mastermind of "Russia's Strategic Course With Regard to the CIS," tried to persuade his Ukrainian colleagues: "We are friendly states. Why, then, cannot Ukraine resolve such an easy issue — mere kid stuff — as coordinating with Russia its stance on NATO expansion?" In those kinds of moments, statements made in passing helped to find tiny pieces of gold (issues that really interest the Russian side) in tonnes of dross. The principal issue that interested the Russian side was; "Where will Ukraine go — to the East or to the West? Whom does it support and to whom will it belong?" "We recognize Ukraine as a great and at the same time, friendly state" — Sergey Karaganov paused and smiled charmingly. "Meanwhile, Ukraine behaves as an unfriendly state and does not support Russia's stance on NATO. If we conclude that Ukraine is not going to behave in a friendly manner, Russian businessmen will not invest in Ukraine. They will go to Belarus, China, or the United States."

Despite my respect for Sergey Karaganov's political expertise (both he and Yuriy Dubinin have caused a lot of trouble to Ukrainian politicians), I would like to point out that on this issue Russia's "gray cardinal" abandoned reality and became submerged in political fallacies. It is very naive to believe that capital can be controlled by means of political resolutions. In certain cases, even UN sanctions proved powerless, not mentioning the Kremlin hidden in the shadow of the 34-floor "Gazprom" office.

Naturally, money did not become a full synonym for the word "administration" yet, and the administration is no longer in a position to subordinate the capital investment policy to political ambitions. The administration can only facilitate the creation of the most favorable conditions for domestic capital on the foreign market. There is no doubt that the Russian administration will pursue a protectionist policy toward Ukraine. There is one simple reason for that: In light of the fact that Russia leaves Ukraine behind with regard to reforms, the period in which "money does not mean power, yet power means money" is coming to an end in Russia. Therefore, each of the more or less serious politicians is either already in possession of some kind of a concern, bank, or corporation or lobbies support for them. Precisely for this reason no one can convince me that there is no one among Russia's key politicians who would not be interested in the future of Ukrainian transit oil and gas pipelines, the Nikopol-based ferroalloy plant, the Nikolayev-based alumina plant, Crimean health resorts, underground gas storage facilities, Ukrainian nuclear power plants, and finally in contracts for establishing a closed cycle to produce heat emitting elements for our nuclear stations. Along with the aforementioned "appetizing monster entrees," smaller "tidbits," too, exist in Ukraine and are equally interesting for the Russians, given that after the 70-year period of a mutually managed economy closed cycles of production in certain sectors of industry were disconnected by the limits of former republics that became states. Thus, some Russian concerns which comprise nine plants miss the 10th one which is in Ukraine. What is more convenient for a concern — to buy the plant or to establish a new one? Naturally, it is more convenient to buy it and thanks to the protection of the administration, to buy it at the lowest possible price. Actually, in light of such relations between the basis and the superstructure in Russia, we cannot rule out scenario in which political concessions on the part of Russia would be "bought" by Ukraine in exchange for concessions to Russian capital.... Great opportunities for these kinds of activities open when privatization of major facilities starts in Ukraine.

To close this issue: this is where the cornerstone of Ukraine's future rests. The point is that both sides which met in Pushcha Ozerna without protecated arguing agreed on the fact that precisely Russia was the initiator of the Soviet Union's collapse, given that with the burden of republic-satellites it would have been unable to make a single step toward the promising capitalistic future. Neither does it have enough money to absorb the 52-million-people Ukraine whose economy is not very profitable at this point. However, by exercising full control over Ukraine's basic budget-forming sectors state, independence can be quite profitably used. It is profitable for politicians, who in this case would gain another brotherly vote on all the international problems, as well as for businessmen who would reap all the possible profits. In light of Russia's interest, this would be perfectly correct. The question is whether Ukraine will be satisfied with this. If not, has Ukraine created an efficient and clear system to exercise control over the penetration of Russian capital into the Ukrainian market? In this case, I am not referring to the need for prohibiting Russian investments — which is impossible and unprofitable — but to noticing the moment in which they reach a critical mass, which could have an impact on the Ukrainian state's foreign and internal policies to a larger degree than desirable. This kind of control system is in the interest of the Ukrainian leadership if it obviously wants to become a genuine state leadership....

Thus, regardless of the recently frozen bilateral relations, we can say that the arsenal of methods for their activation has significantly increased of late. The only very important thing is to know precisely which method to use and when it should be applied: when to promise economic favorable conditions, when to make a statement on the necessity of admitting Russia into the Council of Europe, when to support Russia's position on Yugoslavia, and when to ignore the tiresome forms of integration within the CIS, or to retain meaningful silence with regard to the prospects of NATO expansion. To effectively apply those methods it is necessary to have detailed information about what is happening in the top echelons of the Russian administration. As for the Russians, they have demonstrated enviable awareness of Ukraine's internal processes and conflicts in the government. Incidentally, by applying various methods Russia adds fuel to the fire of Ukraine's domestic conflicts and also attempts to drive a wedge between the already formed groups which hold power in Ukraine. Well, just as brothers do....

The Ukrainian side did not demonstrate its own awareness. However, this does not indicate that Ukraine is not in possession of substantial information about what is happening in Moscow. More likely they did not bandy with information which is typical of Ukrainian mentality. At the same time, there evidently was something which prevented the Ukrainian side from being tempted by radiant hopes for a rapid, reasonable, and mutually profitable resolution of all Ukrainian-Russian problems.

P.S. To conclude, let us mention weather. According to data by experienced meteorologists, regardless of everything, the winter is coming.

Kuchma's Black Sea Fleet Comments Reported

WS2011150995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0534 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 17 — While Ukraine remains tied to Russia, it should not give away vital assets such as land, utilities or the Black Sea Fleet, President Leonid Kuchma said this week.

"Ukraine created all conditions for the normal existence of the Black Sea Fleet," Kuchma said. "How can we speak about a strategic partnership with Russia if we cannot live together in the same place and if Russians tell Ukraine to leave Sevastopol."

Kuchma also pointed to Russia's agreement with Kazakhstan on renting Baykonur and asked why Ukraine should give away its territory for free. Further, the president said, Russians still owed Ukraine about KBV1 trillion for municipal services.

Regarding banking matters, Kuchma called for a return to the state of some funds from PryvatBank, Oshchadbank and Ukraina. An idea exists to create a state bank through which state money would be circulated, Kuchma said. "National policy should be conducted through a national bank. If we lower inflation down to 1.2 percent, then interest rates will be lower and the investing climate will stabilize."

Defense Minister Shmarov Arrives in Austria

WS2111084195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0002 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 20 — A delegation headed by Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov arrived in Vienna Monday for a two-day visit on the invitation of Austrian Defense Minister Werner Fasslabend.

Shmarov will meet with National Council Chairman Heinz Fisher and Fasslabend on major military and political questions. The two defense ministries will sign a military cooperation agreement. The Ukrainians will also visit a military academy and aviation unit of the Austrian army.

Mykola Makarevych, the ambassador of Ukraine in Austria, will participate in the talks.

Navy Joins Mulinational Exercise Off Italian Coast

LD2011195495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1908 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SEVASTOPOL, Nov 20 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — The Classic-95 multinational navy exercise began in the Ligurian Sea near Italy's La Spezia naval base today. The naval exercise involves ships of the NATO member-states and the countries participating in the NATO Partnership for Peace program.

Ukraine is represented by the *Getman Sagaidachny* flagship.

The Ukrainian Navy's press center told INTERFAX-UKRAINE that during the exercise military ships from Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Turkey, the United States, Italy, Romania, France and Ukraine would practice towing ships, assistance to ships in emergency, as well as organization and execution of embargo operations.

The Ukrainian navy commander, Vice Admiral Vladimir Bezkorovainy, left for the area where the exercise is taking place today. Bezkorovainy will take part in the organization of the exercise and meet with representatives of the navy command of the countries involved in the exercise.

The naval exercise will end on November 24.

National Affairs

Kuchma Interviewed on Draft Constitution

LD2011194495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1807 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 222 (965)]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidential Bulletin is publishing an exclusive interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma following a major event in the country's life — a draft constitution has been finalized.

INTERFAX: The draft of Ukraine's new constitution has been submitted to the Constitutional Commission. It contains many new elements. For instance, the single-house parliament is going to be replaced by a two-house one. What are the reasons for this and other changes?

Kuchma: First and foremost I must say with satisfaction that those who worked on the draft of a new constitution are professionals and experts in law, modern history and science.

I saw no reason why I should interfere in their work. I met with the authors twice to discuss controversial issues and to explain my vision of certain problems.

As for a two-house parliament in Ukraine, I am entirely for it. The legislative body must be well-balanced. Nothing more reasonable and rational has been invented so far. In the transitional period, when neither society, nor the legislative body of power has been structured properly, the need for checks and counter-balances is quite obvious.

Besides, the situation where a single-house parliament makes a decision by a majority vote to be effected at once is far from ideal. A two-house parliament would help avoid this. If there is an upper house representing the interests of regions and capable of expressing its own opinion or counter-opinion on this or that issue, society will be more secure against legal chaos.

A future legislature must be clearly structured. For instance, at a certain moment a political bloc is formed and proposes a candidate for premiership. In genuinely democratic countries as soon as the prime minister loses support from parliament, the question of the resignation of the whole Cabinet is raised at once.

The draft of a new constitution says that the candidate for prime minister is approved by parliament. Incidentally I myself suggested abolishing the appointment of the prime minister by the president.

INTERFAX: You say that the upper house of parliament will to a greater extent represent the interests of regions. What political rights will they have? In other words, where does regional independence begin?

Kuchma: Political independence is ruled out, of course. Too much autonomy breeds political problems. We have the example of Crimea, a negative example, I should say. Crimea's autonomy is enough for the time being.

Economic independence is a totally different matter. The more economic independence regions have, the better. As privatization goes on, it makes no sense to run the country from Kiev by decree. Each trip about the country makes me ever more certain about that.

Let us lay down new rules: economic matters, social insurance, science and education, except for national programs, are transferred to the regional authorities. There is nothing wrong about that. On the contrary, there is no other way of enhancing civic and state responsibility. It is most important now to teach people not to blame Kiev for everything. When things in this or that area are bad, Kiev is accused. If there is an achievement, the regional authorities take all the credit.

INTERFAX: Will the adoption of a new Constitution require early elections of legislative bodies of power?

Kuchma: I quite agree that this may prove the stumbling bloc when the draft constitution is discussed. After all, any law-maker is a human, who is concerned about his own interests.

It is still unclear how to go about the business of replacing legislative bodies. Apparently, there must be some transitional period before the lower house of parliament is elected.

I am against any revolutionary decisions in principle. They won't bring stability. If I am criticizing parliament today, I am doing so solely because part of the law-makers are counter-productive.

This is the reason why I decided to appoint my special representative in parliament. This coordinator would seek understanding with other branches of power and explain the president's opinion of this or that issue. Many anti-presidential actions by parliament, including vetoes on presidential decrees were made because the law-makers were poorly informed about the president's point of view.

In a word, the executive branch of power is prepared to meet parliament halfway and establish constructive cooperation with it, because there is no other way.

However, I am very much concerned about parliament's intention to focus on finalizing the proposed draft of the constitution. I fear there will be a prolonged and heated debate. In that case the government's program requiring quite a few legal acts would prove merely a declaration.

I believe that instead of examining the Constitution it would be expedient to empower the president to issue decrees, and the government, to issue resolutions requiring subsequent approval by parliament. Deadlines can be set, too: for instance, three months. That time will be enough to see the weak points of such decrees and resolutions. Properly amended, they would eventually become laws.

INTERFAX: It is less then a month before parliamentary elections in Russia. Will their results be able to somehow affect Ukrainian-Russian relations at a time when the influence of left-wing forces is growing?

Kuchma: Firstly, I don't think that Communist ideas are on the rise in Ukraine, although I must agree that ever more people share the attitude of senior citizens: they remember the days when their pensions and wages were enough for a decent life. This nostalgia must be taken to account.

To recall only good things is human. However, one's memories and outlook are not the same thing. One shouldn't think that when people recall the past, they want the return of Communism.

I agree that life is not easy these days and we must do everything in our power to make them better. But there can be no return to the past. There is no alternative to reforms. A return of the past is impossible politically and economically.

As for the elections to Russia's State Duma, I believe that the left-wingers will get as many seats as they have now, about 30 percent.

The situation in Russia is different from ours. All political parties there are united by one idea, that of building a strong great Russia. All this causes nostalgia. In a word, Russia does have a national idea. We don't, to my great regret. Russia's ideology of a great power is unlikely to have a favorable effect on bilateral relations, but that is a totally different matter.

INTERFAX: What do you think of the outlook for political integration within the CIS?

Kuchma: In the post-Soviet space no political union will be possible without Russia. At the same time it is in the interests of the world to keep Russia strong and united. If it begins to fall apart, there will be a disaster.

However, I am certain that the times when great powers decide everything must go. The voice of every country and every people must be heard. Only in that case we shall have the chance of building a world without military blocs and confrontation.

I like the idea Estonian President Lennart Meri proposed in the United Nations. He called for convening a conference of smaller countries.

INTERFAX: Ukrainian and Russian defence ministers will meet in a few days to discuss the Black Sea Fleet. Are there any chances this problem will be resolved soon?

Kuchma: I have said more than once that there are no military or technical problems. There is a purely political problem and its solution in the first place depends on the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. However, the prolonged confrontation benefits nobody.

I talked with President Yeltsin on the phone on November 15 for 20 minutes. We discussed the whole range of questions — the customs union, free trade and the Black Sea Fleet and I felt that we both are determined to keep comprehensive negotiations going. In the end we agreed to have a meeting soon. I wished President Yeltsin early recovery. He sounded very friendly, too.

INTERFAX: How do you see Ukrainian-U.S. relations?

Kuchma: Political support from the United States and its policy of all-round cooperation with Ukraine not only helped us go through the most difficult phase of building our own statehood, but also helped other countries understand better Ukraine's role in post-Communist world, in Europe in the first place.

We have always said that any pressure on Ukraine would be useless. We dismiss assistance in exchange for concessions. We have chosen a normal way of development, the one followed by most other countries.

On the other hand I believe that Kiev deserves greater cooperation from Western partners. Western governments could be more active in extending guarantees to their businessmen to let them start doing business with Ukraine. It is not credits but investments that we need.

INTERFAX: You have declared there will be personnel reshuffles in the government. Why?

Kuchma: In certain branches of the economy there has been no progress. Many of our industrial ministries are sitting on the fence instead of reorganizing their work.

On the other hand, reforms require market infrastructures. The government has done nothing along these lines so far. There is only one agrarian exchange in Kiev and it dictates prices to the whole of Ukraine. Does this make any sense?

It is high time we speeded up privatization. A while ago we promised to reduce the number of agencies responsible for that process. Nothing has been done yet.

In a word the period of data gathering is over. It's time we got down to work.

Moroz: President Entitled to Parliament Representative

LD2011183095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 20 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukrainian Parliamentary Chairman Oleksandr Moroz does not object to President Kuchma's intention to have his permanent representative in parliament.

"This is the president's right," he told Interfax - Ukraine in an exclusive interview Monday. At the same time, Moroz underlined that "today's parliament already has enough permanent presidential representatives."

"The optimal solution would be to appoint the Supreme Soviet chairman to fulfil the functions of the permanent presidential representative in parliament, and to appoint the Ukrainian president as [the representative] of parliament in the executive," he remarked.

Moroz said he supports any steps that may improve contacts between the branches of power and would support any candidate proposed by Kuchma.

At the same time, Moroz was amazed at the president's meeting only some deputies and factions.

"If we are seriously concerned about a more efficient state management, it is necessary to invite representatives of all forces in parliament and the Supreme Soviet leadership," he noted.

Moroz, Marchuk on Drawbacks of New Draft Constitution

LD2011200695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — [Supreme Council Chairman] Oleksandr Moroz considers it "no accident" that Ukraine's draft new constitution — which was drawn up by a working group — does not contain a provision that the president is head of the executive authority. At a news conference on 20 November he stressed that according to the proposed draft "it was not clear to which branch of power the president belonged."

Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk noted that the section on the prime minister should have been "set out very clearly in the constitution." At the same time, Moroz emphasized that the draft proposed by the working group did not contain any articles on the prime minister's functions.

Moroz spoke positively about the fact that the draft constitution did not contain norms according to which there was a possibility of regulating the state's legal sphere by means of presidential edicts. He stressed that at the moment this very factor was one of the contradictions in relations between the legislative and the executive authority.

Supreme Council Speaker Against Bicameral Parliament

LD2011203595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — If we care about a unitary state, then the introduction of a bicameral parliament in Ukraine is inexpedient, Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council said at a news conference today.

He stressed that a bicameral parliament in a unitary state was "rudimentary" although for many countries it was "simply a tradition." According to Moroz, if a bicameral parliament were introduced then a problem will arise with finding premises for it.

The parliament chairman emphasized that "he knew the real reasons" behind this novelty in the draft Constitution of Ukraine. He underlined that the people who drafted the constitution "should think about who is currently in parliament and in the executive authority, and draw up a Constitution not for specific people, but for the whole state."

Hundreds Attend Nationalist Rally in Lvov

LD2011163395 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian
1340 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lvov Region — A sanctioned rally, organized by the Lvov regional UNA-UNSD [Ukrainian National Assembly - Ukrainian National Self-Defense], took place on Market Square in the town of Brody from 1510 to 1715 on 19 November. Approximately 40 UNA-UNSD representatives from Kiev, Ternopol, and Lvov, led by people's deputy Oleh Vitovych, and 400 local residents attended the rally. Its participants stated their readiness to carry out acts of disobedience on the territory of Ukraine, Russia, and Poland with the aim of dislodging the republic's power structures.

Crimean Constitution Sent to Kiev for Approval

LD2011184195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1343 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Simferopol, 20 Nov — The official text of Crimea's new Constitution has been submitted to Ukraine's Supreme Council for approval. This was announced at a briefing held by the press service and the secretariat of the Crimean Supreme Council today. A procedure for examining the Constitution by the Supreme Council was agreed. A delegation of Crimean parliamentarians led by Deputy Speaker Anushavan Danelyan will leave for Kiev on Tuesday in order to discuss the text of the Basic Law. [passage omitted]

Belarus

Russia's Soskovets To Discuss Debt, Payment for Troops

WS2111094695 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belarusian side is planning to determine issues regarding the creation of equal conditions of management for Belarusian and Russian entities in the course of the planned visit to Belarus by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers. This has been reported by Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Syarhey Linh at a news conference held in the Cabinet of Minister's office. He pointed out that creation of a single custom sphere envisages equal conditions for activities. Precisely in this direction work is conducted on changing the state's taxation law. Syarhey Linh believes that while discussing with the Russians the problem of debts, it is also necessary to talk about Belarus' expenditures on maintaining the Russian troops. Belarus, as we know, was not paid for the use of our territories and the privileges on accommodation and food for Russian servicemen.

Premier Chyhir Interviewed on Privatization, 1996 Budget

WS2111114895 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, by Olha Tomashewskaya; place and date not given: "The Prime Minister Hopes the Reform Will Be on Track" — first two paragraphs are BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On 13 November, Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir met with representatives of the World Bank mission headed by Basil Kawalski. Representatives of this mission expressed their opinions regarding the activities of the Belarusian leadership to reform the economy. In particular, their remarks concerned privatization and relieving enterprises of social functions.**

After the meeting, Mr. Chyhir answered questions put by a BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA correspondent.

[Tomashewskaya] Can you provide guarantees to World Bank representatives that the government is going to implement its proposals regarding privatization in the immediate future?

[Chyhir] We have already become convinced that if we do not move in this direction, we will not score success in economic reform. Necessary documents have been drafted, and I think that all enterprises processing agricultural raw materials will be made joint-stock ventures in late 1995 or early 1996. I believe that the process of creating joint-stock enterprises in basic industrial sectors will also be dynamic.

The issue regarding the transfer of the social sphere of enterprises to the state is as follows. Municipal fees are gradually increasing. Hence, the situation of enterprises that will preserve the sociocultural sphere on their balance sheet for some time will even be easier. It is easier for the budget to take upon itself the servicing [as published], because the share of budget compensation for municipal fees will be reduced.

We have included some 10 percent of the social sphere of the agricultural sector on the budget balance sheet. Sites of the sociocultural sphere of other sectors of the national economy are also being included on the budget balance sheet.

The draft budget for 1996 envisages a specific amount of money to relieve enterprises of their social functions. This process, however, will likely not be completed soon. I believe that it will require several years.

[Tomashewskaya] Lately, a lot has been said about a refusal to conduct privatization by means of vouchers and by money [denezhnaya privatizatsiya]. Is this a governmental strategy?

[Chyhir] In principle, I do not support privatization by means of vouchers during which some 50 percent of state property must be exchanged for vouchers. According to many experts, an ideal option is when privatization by means of vouchers accounts for some 20 percent.

I support the following viewpoint: Privatization by means of vouchers must be carried out within the framework of adopted laws. I think that we have no time to introduce changes or discuss other options, although, of course, privatization by money is more effective for the economy and it will not be bad if a share of privatization by means of vouchers — or gratuitous [bezvozmezdnyy] privatization — is somewhat lower. But one cannot do without it.

[Tomashewskaya] In your report, you spoke about the participation of Russian companies in the privatization of the Belarusian oil and gas complex. How will it be carried out?

[Chyhir] We have an interest in primarily creating joint-stock oil and gas enterprises that provide guarantees for investments. Therefore, we proposed that Russian companies, including the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company, participate in investments. We want them to provide us with guarantees that they will make capital investments to reconstruct oil processing enterprises and construct additional mains of gas pipelines. Negotiations are under way, but there are no final results yet. I think that we will reach an accord.

In particular, negotiations on creating a joint-stock enterprise based on the oil processing enterprise in Mozyr [NPZ] by the "Slavneft" Russian company are being conducted. This company has 17 percent of stock in the NPZ, but to make investments, it wants to have a controlling block of shares. The "Slavneft" proposes that an additional amount of shares be made available to it, and perhaps it will purchase this stock later. In addition, the "Slavneft" promises us that it will attract investments to reconstruct the NPZ.

These issues should have been discussed with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. His visit to Minsk, however, scheduled for 14 November, was delayed. I hope that these problems will be resolved in the immediate future.

[Tomashewskaya] Have there been any proposals regarding the privatization of enterprises of the oil and gas complex from Western companies?

[Chyhir] There have not been any serious proposals from Western investors. There have been negotiations and commitments, but, regrettably, we have not yet received any specific proposals. We offered the Russians to attract Western companies to this project, but, if there are guarantees for credits, for example, from Russian oil companies, it is quite possible that this process will be on track without the participation of Western investors.

[Tomashewskaya] The draft budget for 1996 is currently being considered by the government. What are the main differences between the 1995 and 1996 budgets?

[Chyhir] We have set ourselves a task of somewhat decreasing the tax pressure on enterprises. As practice shows, enterprises do not bear it: They have failed to pay over 1 trillion rubles to the budget.

The alleviation of the tax burden is a very complicated process, connected with budgetary expenditures. We, however, will try to reduce expenditures aimed for support of the agricultural sector, the Defense Ministry, and the Interior Ministry bodies.

Moldova

Parliament Passes Draft Liberalizing Press Law

AU2011190395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2052 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, November 17 (INFOTAG) — The Moldovan Parliament today adopted at the first reading a draft law envisaging the liberalization of the existing Press Law and mitigating the journalists' responsibility for publications. The draft was initiated by Deputy Speaker Dumitru Diakov, Chairman of the parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and National Minorities Vladimir Solonari, and Deputy Nicolae Visitei. Some additions to the initiative were made by the head of the Popular Front, Yurie Rosca, who proposed, in particular, to withdraw from the Civil Code provisions on the defense of honor and dignity of the Parliament chairman and president of the republic. Substantiating the necessity to pass such a draft law, Vladimir Solonari has stated the necessity to bring the Civil Code and Press Law in line with the European Convention and the European Precedent Law.

The draft law passed at the first reading envisages amending the Civil Code. Thus, any person shall now "have the right to demand through court a refutation of erroneous information, impairing his or her honor and dignity, except in cases when this information have a considerable public interest, and when its distribution pursued fair objectives, and if the information was considered by publisher or broadcaster as authentic at the distribution moment". Similar amendments have been introduced into the Press Law which will now be more liberal and have less restrictions. It is noteworthy that the draft law was voted for not only by the opposition, who have always been struggling against restrictive provisions in the press legislation. The point is, today's amendments were unanimously passed by majority factions, though the Government and the Parliamentary Committee for State Security and Public Order gave their negative conclusions concerning the draft law.

According to the opponents to the draft, this document contradicts to the presumption of innocence, because a plaintiff, who appeals to court to defend his honor and dignity, must himself prove his innocence, no matter what nonsense was published about him in the press. According to the existing legislation, the media — in case of legal proceedings — must prove the objectiveness of their publications.

Kazakhstan

Possible Communist Victory in Russian Elections Viewed

LD1911104895 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 15 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Viktor Verk: "What Will We Get if the Duma 'Turns Red'?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Monday evening, when I was getting ready to go home after finishing my latest column, the telephone rang in my office. A man, who introduced himself as a reader of our newspaper, offered me a subject for my next piece. That sort of thing does not happen very often, you will agree. My caller asked, "Why don't you analyze the possible outcome of the December elections to Russia's State Duma? The Communists will probably win — but what about Kazakhstan? What impact will it have on us?" Indeed, what impact will it have?

The answer would appear to be crystal clear. We are an independent state, which, although it has a border with Russia, pursues (or, at least, tries to pursue) its own policy. However, today this assertion is just as accurate as it is mistaken. Even a cursory glance at statistics on our trade and economic development shows how much the economies of our two states depend on each other. Kazakhstan is focused on Russia for its energy, which means that we get the lion's share of our petrol, lubricants, and electricity from over our northern border. Since energy is, according to the "unforgettable" dictum of one past general secretary, "the true bread of industry," there is something else that comes as no surprise: The highest percentage of export and import operations involving Kazakhstan goes, once again, to Russia. In short, whether we like it or not, Kazakhstan's politicians and economic managers can undoubtedly subscribe to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's high-flown saying: "For us the sun rises in the north."

However, this is an economic "sun," as it were. What about politics? Upon closer examination it is easy to see that they are closely interrelated. One needs only to recall the story of two years ago, when official Almaty made truly titanic efforts to stay inside the ruble zone. When it became clear, however, that they would have to say goodbye to their ruble dreams, senior officials at various levels started making hasty and sometimes completely contradictory statements. One deputy prime minister (who, incidentally, soon afterwards acquired the prefix "ex-") actually said that Kazakhstan could stop supplying power-generating coal to its neighbors, thus freezing the operations of power enterprises in the Urals and Siberia. There was a lot of heated talk at that time, but who now can remember what was said or, indeed, who said it? This is not simply a matter of economics, you will agree. **It is personnel policy, the be-all and end-all of the whole economic policy strategy of any independent state.**

Today, of course, the situation is slightly different. The two referendums that Kazakhstan has had, the new Constitution that has come into being, the start of the election campaign, and the forthcoming elections to the Senate and Majles themselves have all strengthened significantly the position of Nursultan Nazarbayev and the whole executive branch in Kazakhstan. Why then are Kazakhstan's lords and masters reacting so sensitively to the political maneuvers of our local pro-Russian organizations, and why are they paying such close attention to what Russian media think of the situation here?

One reason, of course, is the several-million-strong Russian diaspora — that is to say, Kazakh citizens of ethnic Russian origin. These are the hands that work at the machine tools and down the mines, and they are the votes of those very electors for which our politicians will have to fight (however "unaccustomed" some may be to doing so). The "blessed" age of the "unbreakable" bloc of communists and nonparty members is long past. Finally, they are the wallets of taxpayers, from which the state treasury is filled. Should we be astonished either by the reaction of our authorities to attempts from the north to play the Russophone card or by the willingness of certain of our local "ethnic Russian leaders" to be "played?" On the other hand, are not our "lords and masters" entitled to take an interest in Russia's elections and their outcome?

Let us try to examine the wave of personnel reshuffles in September and October in this context. To be more precise, one "crest" of that wave was the appointment of Baltash Tursunbayev, former head of administration [akim] of Kustanay, as secretary of the Security Council — one of the key posts in the state. Many analysts think that this move took account of Baltash Moldabayevich's long-standing pro-Russian sympathies, which, moreover, are clearly reciprocated. Will it help to clear away "stumbling blocks" in the Russian-Kazakh partnership (which have been far from rare recently)?

Then there is Russia's election campaign, which is gathering pace not by the day but by the hour. Analysts in Moscow are assuming, almost without reservation, that the left — and above all, the Communists — will come first. What does the immediate future hold for us if these prophecies come true?

First, the Communist majority in the Duma will, of course, try to "correct" the make-up of the Russian

Federation [RF] Government. Above all, the "heirs of Ilyich [Lenin]" will train their sights on the prime minister himself — and not only because Viktor Chernomyrdin embodies for them the ugliest grimaces of the Russian market. People who are well versed in behind-the-scenes matters in the neighboring state say that relations between [Russian Communist leader] Gennadiy Andreyevich [Zyuganov] and Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] have been bad for quite a long time, since the time they worked together in the Central Committee of the former "vanguard." **If they nevertheless manage to "topple" V.S.C. [Chernomyrdin], Almaty will be forced to give up its involvement in many planned joint programs.** These include the establishment of joint financial and industrial groups, about which the leaders of both states have spoken frequently and with great interest. **In general, too, the subject of Russian cooperation with CIS countries (including Kazakhstan) will not be particularly popular at "the top" in Russia. Even now there are a lot of voices in Moscow calling for "restrictions" on assistance from Moscow to its former "little brothers."** Many politicians inside the Sadovoye ring road [in Moscow] regard this, in Russia's current position, as "unacceptable charity." If the Duma takes a left turn, such sentiments will only intensify. Zyuganov and company, whose deputies' mandates "shine" only thanks to the populist promises they make to the voters, will have nothing else to offer.

Second, the Communists, with their traditional slogans of "restoring the USSR," will probably set about putting them into effect. **This is clearly not in the plans of the political elite in the post-Soviet states in general, or in Kazakhstan in particular. It will lead inevitably to the emergence of new contradictions in Russian-Kazakh relations,** which official Almaty will find all the harder to "keep in check" as relations between the extreme left-wing Duma and the right-wing conservative RF Government become frostier.

Finally, the third point. Attempts to play the Russophone card, far from ending, will actually intensify. This is because the present RF Communist Party, to judge from several remarks by its leaders, is much further removed from the notion of "proletarian internationalism" than its all-Union predecessor was. According to many analysts, Zyuganov and company are far closer to "healthy" nationalist patriotism than to orthodox communism. **Things have never worked out well when we have had Russian nationalist patriots in charge of things.**

Admittedly, some gullible citizens maintain that after the "reds" get their hands on the levers of power in Russia, the same thing might happen here. I think they are mistaken. Even though our people still look back with nostalgia to the days of the two-ruble-twenty-kopeck sausage, our "commies" have neither striking leaders nor a clear program for turning the clock back.

However, all these are just speculative forecasts — and as we know, that is a rather thankless activity, especially as there could be a totally unexpected outcome: **The guardians of Russia's Constitution might grant one of the several petitions claiming that the electoral law is unconstitutional. In that case, the emergence of the new Duma would be postponed indefinitely.** Our "lords and masters" would be perfectly happy with that outcome, for the familiar is always preferable to the unknown.

Kazakhs Unmask Alleged Caspian Oil Spy

LD2011131595 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Nov 95 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] Atyrau — Atyrau Region, which is fabulously rich in hydrocarbon deposits, is attracting ever more foreign businessmen. It is no secret, however, that it is also beckoning various special services, who would like to know more about the promising region and about the relations developing between Kazakhstan's oilmen and their partners.

It has emerged that officials of the National Security Committee department for Atyrau Region recently rendered harmless [obezvredili] a very real spy. The officials reported that this Kazakh citizen was recruited by one of the Western special services during a foreign visit. He was given the task of gathering economic information with an oil slant. Before he was unmasked, the spy managed to make contact three times and obtain a fee for the information given.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Rules Out Claim for Tajik Territories

LD2011191895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, Nov 20 (Interfax) — Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev told Interfax in Bishkek today that Kyrgyzstan "does not intend to claim Tajik territories in response to such claims from Tajikistan."

"During the territory's division in 1924 Tajikistan received large territories which have been populated with Kyrgyz for ages," Akayev said.

Nevertheless, Akayev said that "Bishkek respects the principle of territorial integrity not only of Kyrgyzstan but also of neighboring countries." "Bishkek respects the existing borders," he added.

Akayev said he regretted that Dushanbe did not follow Bishkek's example and claimed several hundreds of hectares in Kyrgyzstan's Batken region.

"Tajikistan's territorial claims to Kyrgyzstan are the main cause for the treaty on bilateral cooperation and friendship remaining unsigned so far," Akayev said.

"Kyrgyzstan has been providing to Tajikistan comprehensive assistance and will provide it despite everything," Akayev said.

"The Kyrgyz battalion was one of the first to begin defending the Tajik-Afghan border," Akayev said. "Furthermore, the Kyrgyz government provides humanitarian aid to Tajikistan's Gorno Badakhshan region although Kyrgyzstan has its own economic problems," he said.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guards Kill Five in Afghan Border Attack

LD2011132095 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [19 November], 10 armed people opened fire on the Tajik approaches to the Afghan border from the territory of Afghanistan. A correspondent of KHOVAR news agency was told at the press office of the Russian Border Troops Command in Tajikistan, that the group fired at the section sixth outpost of the Kalai-Khumb border detachment. Russian Border Guards returned the fired, resulting in the death of five of the armed group.

One Policeman Killed, One Taken Hostage by Rebels

LD2011141295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0748 GMT 20 Nov 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, November 20 (Itar-Tass) — A Tajik policeman was killed by unidentified people on Sunday evening who attacked a KAMaz truck near the village of Nimich, Garm district, 200 km east of Dushanbe, Itar-Tass learnt at the Tajik Interior Ministry on Monday.

The attackers killed a non-commissioned officer of the interior troops, wounding his wife and the KAMaz driver. Another policeman who was in the truck, was taken hostage.

A manhunt for the attackers was launched.

Crime is rampant in the Garm area situated in the foothills of the Pamir mountains where separate armed groups of the Tajik opposition as well as criminal gangs operate.

Terrorists killed more than 50 Interior Ministry officers since the start of the current year.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Signs Agreements in Germany, Returns

LD1711143495 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0300 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Uzbek President Islam Karimov arrived in Bonn. Karimov met Lorenz Schomerus, state secretary at the German Economic Ministry at the Petersberg government residence, where he was staying. They talked about the expansion of economic relations between our states. Then the delegation led by Karimov headed for Villa Hammerschmidt, the presidential residence of Germany, where a welcoming ceremony took place. At Villa Hammerschmidt, Karimov had a face-to-face talk with German President Roman Herzog.

The same day Karimov visited the Bundestag and had a talk with Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth.

A signing ceremony for documents that had been approved took place at the Petersberg residence at the end of the discussions between the Uzbek and German official delegations. Agreements on air links and on cooperation in the fight against organized crime, terrorism and other most dangerous crimes were signed between the Uzbekistan and Germany.

President Karimov held talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

The visit by Karimov to Germany has ended. This morning the president returned to Tashkent. At the capital's airport, Karimov was met by Supreme Council Chairman Erkin Khalilov; Prime Minister Abdulhashim Mutalov; First Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Jurabekov; Bakhtiyar Gulamov, state adviser to the president; Kazym Tulaganov, head of the Tashkent administration; and other officials. Juergen Keilholz, German charge d'affaires to Uzbekistan was among those present.

Armenia

Agreement on Single CIS Air Defense System Ratified

LD2011190895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Armenian National Assembly ratified the agreement on the setting up of a single air defense system in the CIS countries, which was signed by the heads of the CIS states in Almaty on 10 February. Addressing the Assembly, Major General Alik Sarkisyan [name and title as heard], the commander of the Armenian Air Defense Troops, said that the old system was being restored and several training exercises had already been held jointly with the Russian air defense troops.

Government Plans To Invest $202 Million in 1996

NC2011180195 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1315 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On November 17, it was reported at a joint session of National Assembly's permanent commissions and Armenian Government that in 1996 it was planned to make investments for 81.1 billion drams (some 202 million dollars) at the expense of external financial sources, including 10.5 billion drams of the budget. As compared with 1995 investment volume will grow by 14.7 percent.

33 percent of the total sum (including 63 percent of budget sums) will be spent in the sphere of energy system. In 1996 it is planned to carry out works on reconstruction and re-estimation of small Hydro Power Stations at the expense of a credit for 10,000,000 DM provided by German Government. Realization of World Bank's [WB] credit program "Promotion of energy sector of Armenia" (13.7 million US dollars) will be continued. With the aim of raising stability of energy systems it is envisaged to make allocations for 6.35 billion drams (1.5 billion drams - for second block of Armenian Nuclear Power Plant, 1.3 billion drams - for construction of high-voltage Iran-Armenia lines, 200 million drams - for completion of Gerger Hydro Power Station, 3.3 billion drams - for reconstruction of Hrazdan Hydro Power Station). It is planned to provide credits for reequipping Zvartnots airport and constructing a gas pipe-line Iran Armenia [as received].

7.5 million dollars provided by WB will be allotted in the sphere of transportation. Besides, 900 million drams-worth investments are planned, 300 million of which for completion of works on decreasing the water level of Yerevan subway and 600 million drams - for works on liquidation of landslides' aftermath at Sanain-Kober high way and Ijevan-Hrazdan railway. Credits will be also allocated to the system of civil aviation. The sphere of industry will be provided 600 million drams.

500 million drams will be earmarked to agriculture (1.25 million US dollars), 200 million drams of which - for construction of hydro-technical constructions on the river of Vorotan, 225 million drams - for reconstruction of irrigation systems. Financing is carried out together with WB.

Social sphere will be given 800 million drams in order to complete construction of Davidashen bridge.

WB is expected to provide a $5,000,000-worth loan for social investments.

Owing to a credit (2.7 million dollars) provided by UN Supreme Commissariat on Refugees 500 apartments will be constructed for refugees (18,000 square meters of dwelling space) and 588 apartments (24,000 square meters of dwelling space) - owing to a loan provided by German Government (2.2 million dollars).

Ministry Reports Border Fire Exchange, Casualties

NC2011205595 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2000 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the relative calm was disrupted on the northeastern sector of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border last night.

Azerbaijani armed forces units fired from 1730 to 1830 on the defensive positions of Chinari in Tavush with heavy machine guns. The enemy stopped firing following appropriate retaliation by the Armenian armed forces units. Both sides report casualties. No incidents have taken place on other parts of the border. There were no cease-fire violations on Karabakh fronts. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Press and Information Department reported this.

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Minister Views Peace Talks' Outcome

LD2011182895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] STEPANAKERT, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — During the settlement of the Karabakh conflict neither side "will achieve its maximal demands." Nagorno-Karabakh Foreign Minister Arkady Gukasian told reporters in Stepanakert on Monday before his departure to Bonn.

Another round of talks on the Karabakh settlement within the framework of the OSCE [Organization for

Security and Cooperation in Europe] Minsk Group will open on November 22 in the German capital.

The minister said that Karabakh does not see any readiness on the part of Azerbaijan to agree to a compromise. According to him, Baku "virtually attempts to force Nagorno-Karabakh to capitulate, giving no consideration to the existing realities."

In this situation, said the minister, "a conclusion could be made that Azerbaijan does not exclude for itself the use of force in solving the problem, though neither objective nor subjective factors encourage the taking of such a decision."

Commission States 91 Percent Adopted Constitution

NC2011190095 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Statement by Central Election Commission; place and date not given; read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In keeping with Article 24 of the Azerbaijani referendum law, the Azerbaijani Central Election Commission, which has jurisdiction over the Azerbaijani Central Referendum Commission, has calculated the results of the 12 November referendum on Azerbaijan's new Constitution:

Voter turnout was 86 percent. Of the 3,556,277 participating voters, 3,267,538 — 91.19 percent — voted yes for the proposal and thus supported adopting the first draft constitution of independent Azerbaijan.

Voters actively participated in the referendum in all election districts. Those favoring the new Constitution in 65 out of 98 election districts made up 94.18 percent of the participating voters. Thus, the first Constitution of independent Azerbaijan has been endorsed by the people.

Election Commission Announces Names of New Deputies

NC2111104695 Baku TURAN in English 1109 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku 20/11/95 TURAN—Central Election Commission approved names of 71 deputies elected to the Milli Mejlis during the elections on majoritary system November 12, 1995.

As the Commission reports the names of the current Parliament speaker, Rasul Guliyev, and two his deputies Arif Rehimzade and Yashar Aliyev, are among the names of new Deputies.

Famous political figures, writers Sabir Rustamhanli (former Minister of Press and Information) and Yusif Samedoglu will continue their activities as Parliament members. In the new Parliament they will work together with the chairman of Azerbaijan's Writers Union, Anar Rzayev, as well as deputy chairman of "Yeni Azerbaycan" [New Azerbaijan] party, Sirus Tebrizli. The captain of Azerbaijani KVN [expansion unknown] team "Baku's guys", Anar Mamedhanli, has also received the deputy mandate.

President Aliyev's close relatives—son, SOCAR's [State Oil Company of Azerbaijan] Vice-President, Ilham Aliyev, brother, Academician Jalal Aliyev, and son-in-law, Azerbaijan's Ambassador in Great Britain, Mahmud Mamedguliyev, have also become deputies in new Milli Mejlis.

The head of Presidential administration, Ramiz Mehtiyev, has been also elected the Parliament member and he will, possibly, be new Parliament speaker.

From the Presidential team President's Advisor, Eldar Namazov, and Advisor for Humanitarian Affairs, Fatma Abdullazade, have been also elected to the new Parliament.

President of Azerbaijan's Academy of Science, Eldar Salayev, and Academician, Faramaz Magsudov, have been elected to the Parliament as well.

People's artists, Zeinab Hanlarova and Shafiga Mamedova also received places in the highest legislative body of the country.

However, Foreign Minister, Hasan Hasanov, is not included in the list of deputies.

The Central Election Commission reports November 26, 1995 there will be repeated voting in 20 districts, where none of nominees managed to collect more than 50 percent votes of electors.

In another 8 districts repeated elections will take place February 4, 1995. The Central Election Commission reports there were numerous violations of law or there were no quorum of electors at the these districts. Such districts include 34 Ganja's district, to which Foreign Minister, Hasan Hasanov, ballotted. Speaking with Turan's correspondent Hasan Hasanov said judging by preliminary information of observers he collected majoritary of votes during the elections. "However, at 12 p.m. group of armed persons in masks came into the building of district election commission and stole ballot papers", Hasanov noted.

Opposition Official Comments on Foreign Policy

964F0360A Baku ZERKALO in Russian 4 Nov 95 No 41, p 11

[Interview with A. Mollazade, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan People's Front Party, by N. Aliyev; place and date not given: "A. Mollazade: 'Without the Participation of the Opposition, the Shaping of Foreign Policy Is Impossible'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Asim Mollazade, a deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan People's Front Party, returned recently from his trip to Germany. What was the reason for the trip? Your ZERKALO correspondent asked him to answer this and other questions.

[Mollazade] The trip was organized by the Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which operates under the auspices of the Free Democratic Party of Germany. The trip was of a familiarization nature, and its purpose was to establish contacts between our parties and between the Azerbaijan Foundation for the Development of Democracy and various societies of Germany.

This is of great significance for Azerbaijan. Unified Germany possesses tremendous potential and does not at this time have particular economic interests in Azerbaijan like the interests of the United States or Britain. Germany has recently been performing a lead role in the OSCE Minsk Group.

You will recall that after the Bundestag last year made the decision authorizing the use of Germany's armed forces in peacekeeping operations outside of NATO, there was a fundamental change in the situation in a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict also. When a country agreeable to making a military contingent available for peacekeeping operations emerged, a chain reaction began. Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland gave their consent, and this constituted the basis of the decision adopted at the Budapest summit.

An important purpose of our trip was to attempt to stimulate Germany as far as possible in matters of involvement in processes both in the "secluded corners" of Europe and, in particular, in Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, it has to be affirmed yet again that the German public knows very little about Azerbaijan. We attempted to inform people involved to this extent or the other in the shaping of the FRG's foreign policy course about Azerbaijan. A whole series of meetings was held at the main research centers which participate in the formation of Germany's foreign policy. There were also official meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs devoted primarily to questions of a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, at the Ministry for Economic Relations and Development, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Economics and in the Bundestag.

[Aliyev] How competent, in your view, is a representative of the People's Front opposition party, who does not represent the government, to decide such questions.

[Mollazade] The competence is in the fact that without the participation of the main opposition organization, a solution of serious questions is impossible. In normal, civilized societies this is precisely the way these matters are decided. One of the reasons for the instability in Azerbaijan, possibly, is the absence of dialogue between political forces.

The PNFA [Azerbaijan People's Front Party] has throughout the past two years, despite the fact that it has been a persecuted opposition party, made a big contribution to the molding of Azerbaijan's foreign policy. Our delegation has in this period made official trips to Britain, the United States, Germany, and Turkey. In a normal society the opposition also bears responsibility for the solution of questions connected with national security. No political organization has the moral right to be in opposition on these matters. We have tried to fill in the lacunas in foreign policy.

[Aliyev] You see shortcomings in the foreign policy of the Azerbaijani state?

[Mollazade] Unfortunately, throughout the two years since the June coup a number of the shortcomings in execution of the strategic line which had been present under the People's Front have now not only persisted but have begun to impede the entire process. Embassies of Azerbaijan are lacking in many countries, and if they do exist, they are involved in the accomplishment of technical assignments as directed by Baku.

We tried to explain in Germany that Europe has, beyond anyone's ability to do anything about it, increased and that Azerbaijan today represents Europe's border with quite a dangerous world. The interests of Europe's national security consist of the outpost being democratic and integrated in an integral Europe. We attempted to persuade people that such potential exists in Azerbaijan. Despite the fact that today Azerbaijan is undoubtedly not a democratic state and there is no market economy here, there is undoubtedly the potential. This is indicated if only by the existence of the Azerbaijan People's Front. Note: A ruthless struggle against the democratic opposition has been under way in the republic for the past two years and, in principle, against the People's Front. All other parties in the shadow of the PNFA are being somewhat protected.

We managed to persuade the people whom we met that Azerbaijan needs serious assistance for the accomplishment of complex tasks, that Azerbaijan should be integrated in Europe, and so forth. We are talking mainly about political forces of a center-right persuasion—the Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union (CDU-CSU) and the Free Democratic Party.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Comments on Election Result

LD2011193595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 20 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President-elect Eduard Shevardnadze said on Monday the recent presidential election "has confirmed the people's confidence in the president and the course he is following."

Shevardnadze, elected president on November 5, made the statement in one of the weekly interviews he gives the Georgian radio on Mondays.

Commenting on Sunday's runoff poll to fill some of the seats in the next parliament, he said the voting "was based on the constitution and law." The main result of the last elections "is that democracy has triumphed in Georgia." "However I don't want to assert that everything went off ideally," he added.

It was a salient feature of Sunday's voting that "representatives of a wide range of political forces" won seats in the future parliament, Shevardnadze said.

IF Note: The runoff, where the contest was for some of the seats to be filled through a majority vote system, encompassed 41 constituencies. According to the Central Electoral Commission, the largest proportions of candidates were proposed by the Union of Citizens of Georgia and the National Democratic Party — respectively 20 and nine of a total of 82.

In the principal election on November 5, 47 seats were filled through the majority vote system and another 147 through the party list one.

The population's support for "the political forces which fully share the president's program" makes it possible to form a majority in parliament "which will guarantee the unimpeded making of any important decisions." "As (arrested militant opposition leader) Jaba Ioseliani would put it, a time of dictatorship has set in Georgia, but it is a dictatorship of law," Shevardnadze said.

He said the election process in Georgia had aroused interest in many countries and international organizations and that some foreign business companies had decided to wait for the outcome of the voting to decide whether to make investments into the Georgian economy.

Going over to his country's relations with Russia, Shevardnadze said practical steps had been taken to put them on an essentially new basis. He praised the Russian leadership for its "great contribution" to strengthening cooperation between the two former Soviet republics.

"It is in the vital interest of Georgia, as in that of the entire world community, that democracy in Russia should continue to develop," he added.

As for the "misunderstanding" over former Georgian security chief Igor Giorgadze, a "professional terrorist" who is currently taking refuge in Russia and whom Georgia wants to be extradited, that is "temporary in nature" and will have no effect on relations between the two countries.

Shevardnadze ended his interview with comments on his coming inauguration as president. "I was against giving any special solemnity or pomposity to this event, but my colleagues have persuaded me that that was a procedure that doesn't have to do with an individual person but will establish a tradition that the president is a symbol of the independence and sovereignty of the country."

U.S. president Bill Clinton has sent Shevardnadze a message to congratulate him on his election as president.

Shevardnadze's press service quoted Clinton as saying the United States supported Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and that the elections had demonstrated the Transcaucasus country's adherence to democratic principles.

According to the press service, the U.S. president also said Washington was ready to actively cooperate with the Georgian leadership.

Shevardnadze has received congratulatory messages from the leaders of many other countries as well.

Victory by Batiashvili in Elections Being Questioned

LD2011183395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Nov 20 (INTERFAX) — The results of the second round of parliamentary elections in Georgia's majority constituencies were summed up by 5 p.m. Monday.

Georgia's Central Electoral Commission told INTERFAX the winners in 38 majority constituencies were already known.

The victory of the republic's former security chief, Irakliy Batiashvili, in one of the Tbilisi constituencies was questioned by numerous complaints.

Batiashvili had prevailed over his rival, Eduard Shevardnadze's Deputy Chief of Staff Irakliy Machavariani, with a majority of only one vote last Sunday. The complaints will be considered, after which the commission will make public its decision.

According to the commission, two more majority constituencies in the district center Lagodekhi and the Mtatsmind district of Tbilisi are yet to hold the second round of parliamentary elections. The results of the November 5 elections there were subsequently cancelled and they held only the first round of elections on November 19, which did not reveal a winner.

Union of Citizens Will Have 124 Deputies in Parliament

LD2011164795 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1345 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 20 Nov (IPRINDA) — An agency correspondent was told today at the press center of the Union of Citizens of Georgia that the union will have a 124-strong faction in the Georgian parliament, of which 111 deputies will be from the party lists. The faction will also comprise those who participated in the elections as independent candidates and had the support of the Union of Citizens of Georgia.

Estonia

U.S. Defense Secretary Cited on NATO, Russia

LD2011154395 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Report by correspondent Mall Malberg on news conference in Tallinn given by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry and Estonian Defense Minister Andrus Oovel — portions enclosed within quotation marks recorded; Secretary Perry speaks in English fading to Estonian translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry will leave Tallinn in half an hour's time. Perry and Defense Minister Andrus Oovel gave a news conference at noon today. Mall Malberg reports:

[Malberg] Andrus Oovel emphasized that the last 24 hours were spent in discussions and said he hopes that these discussions will bear fruit. He hopes that defense cooperation between the two states will enrich relations in the future:

[Oovel] "Although the defense and military cooperation memorandum between the Estonian and U.S. defense departments was signed only this spring, bilateral defense cooperation has taken place for years — from the moment when Estonia regained independence in 1991.

Several areas of cooperation were discussed at a meeting this morning. Here I would mention a military environmental protection program, cooperation on airspace control, technical aid and assistance with equipment, agreement on security information, and several other aspects."

William Perry said that Estonia has been very successful in building up the free-market economy and professional army. He emphasized the existing cooperation between Estonia and the United States on airspace control:

[Perry] "Estonia's security is important to the United States. Indeed, security and stability in Estonia influence security and stability in Europe as a whole."

Perry made two comments on obtaining NATO membership. First, the process is long and it will take years for some states to become new members:

[Perry] "But the standards of membership, which is democratic government, market reform, civilian control over the army, friendly relations with neighbors, and the compatibility of the army with the NATO armed forces — with regard to these five standards, Estonia has been as successful as any other country.

NATO is not considering nations in tiers or in groups. Every state is different and the final decision is still with the parliaments of the member-states."

William Perry was asked whether the recent amendments to the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty offered by Russia, which would bring more [Russian] troops close to Estonia's borders, would influence NATO extension to the east:

[Perry] "This will have no influence on the issues now being considered by NATO."

Perry was asked to comment on Russia's threat to send its troops into the Baltic states if NATO is to expand.

[Perry] "The United States made this very clear to Russia, I have personally discussed this with the Russian defense minister, and he confirmed that this is not the official position of Russia or the Russian Ministry of Defense. We think that free and independent Estonia is important not only for Estonia but also for Europe. At the same time, the United States is developing a pragmatic partnership, as we call it, with Russia for the sake of common goals. But when we disagree with Russia, we say so.

And that is why we say that statements, like the statement that came out from one Russian [individual] about Estonia's security, are simply not acceptable."

And of course, a concerned question about local Russians was asked by a journalist from the [Finnish] TURUN SANOMAT newspaper. Here is the answer:

[Perry] "In particular, both the United States State Department and the OSCE looked specifically at minority rights in Estonia, and both came to the conclusion that Estonia is protecting the rights of Russians and other ethnic minorities."

Comments on NATO Expansion

WS2111090295 Tallinn ETA in English 1305 GMT 20 Nov 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Secretary of Defense William Perry, staying on a two-day visit to Estonia, told press on Monday that accepting new countries, including Estonia, as NATO members would take several years.

"NATO expansion is a very time-consuming and long process," Perry said.

Countries wishing to join the alliance must be democratic, have open market economy and civil control over the military, follow the NATO standards in military training and enjoy good relations with neighbours, Perry said, commenting on the main criteria for joining NATO.

"I am glad to say that Estonia meets these demands to a great extent," he told reporters.

Perry pointed out that since his last visit to Estonia five years ago, considerable progress had been made. "Defence forces of all the Baltic countries work hard to make the armies professional and subject to civil control."

Estonian Defence Minister Andrus Oovel thanked Perry for the aid America has given Estonia to guarantee security in the country. Oovel was glad to point out that the aid program had not stopped, for more and more Estonian officers are trained in American military academies.

"Estonia is not only a consumer of security, but also its producer in view of our participation in the Bosnia peacekeeping programme," Oovel said.

William Perry told Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi earlier in the day that the security of Estonia could not be separated from that of Europe. As NATO does not plan to accept new members in the few years to come, Perry advised Estonia to keep up the cooperation within the Partnership for Peace program.

Perry was pleased to hear that discussions of the Estonian-Russian July agreements would start in parliament this week and that considerable progress has been made with the border issue.

Estonia announced on Thursday that it was giving up its claim for the two strips of land which have been a strain on Estonian-Russian relations for the past two years.

U.S. does not support isolation of Russia for solving the European security issues, Perry told Vahi. On the other hand, U.S. does not wish Russia to be a threat to other countries from its position of power.

"Russia as a part of Europe must be included in all the security systems," Perry told Toomas Savi, Speaker of Riigikogu.

Meri, Council of Europe Official Discuss Russian Membership

LD2011172995 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lennart Meri received Miguel Martinez, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in Kadriorg today.

The meeting discussed Estonia's integration into Europe and cooperation on security between Estonia and other European countries. They discussed the extent of Russia's readiness to become a member of the Council of Europe. Martinez noted that Estonia was one of the few members of the Council of Europe who knew Russia well and therefore, Estonia's also had a major responsibility. Martinez added that after Russia is given membership, the aim of the Council of Europe will be to facilitate the strengthening of democracy in this country.

Latvia

Russian Parliament Sends Protest Over NATO Expansion

LD2011133595 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilga Kreituse, chairwoman of the Saeima, has received a statement from the Federation Council of Russia's Federal Assembly which categorically protests against NATO expansion toward the East. This is the first official document expressing Russia's attitude toward NATO enlargement to be received by the Latvian parliament. Russia is refraining for the time being from measures to strengthen its military security.

Council of Europe Official Speaks on Russia's Admission

LD1811185195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Nov 18 (INTERFAX) — Miguel Martinez, head of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, spoke at the session of the Latvian Parliament dedicated to the 77th anniversary of Latvian independence Saturday. He said that the admission of Russia to the Council of Europe is the most urgent task of the institution and called on the Baltic states to "take a positive and active part in fulfilling the task."

"The strengthening of Russia as a democratic state is important not only for its people but for all European countries," he said. According to Martinez, there are two approaches in the Council of Europe as to the admission of Russia. "Some seriously believe that confrontation with Russia is inevitable and that is why Europe must isolate Russia and prepare for confrontation. The other approach, which I support, envisages that all efforts must be made to avoid such confrontation with Russia in the future," said Martinez.

He said that "Russia must be given all opportunities to act according to European standards of democracy, and the best way to achieve it is to make Russia a full member of the Council of Europe." The democratization of Russia is a difficult task both for Russians themselves and for all of us, including for the Baltic states," said Martinez.

Latvian Way Decides To Support New Government

LD2011193095 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At an extraordinary conference, the Latvian Way Union has decided to support Maris Grinblats' government, which is being formed by the National Bloc, and to instruct the Latvian Way's executive to take part in drafting the final version of the Government declaration.

A special accord, which will record all the disagreements which are not to be addressed for the time being, will be concluded between the Latvian Way and the National Bloc within the next few days.

Asked about the chances for the Government to be approved, Party leader Valdis Birkavs said that the Latvian Way does not participate in completely hopeless events.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Calls Perry Meeting Perry 'Open,' 'Pragmatic'

LD2111115195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Nov 21 (Interfax) — The U.S. supports Lithuania's policy of guaranteeing national security.

After a Monday meeting with the Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas U.S. defense Secretary William Perry said in Vilnius the Baltic country has achieved much in the process of integrating in European collective security structures and takes active part in the Partnership for Peace program.

In his opinion much time can pass till the enlargement of NATO, however Lithuania should to everything to be ready for it.

Brazauskas described his meeting with the U.S. official as open and pragmatic. Attention was paid to the requirements to a country seeking NATO membership. Among them the president named democratic government, successful economic reforms, the upgrading of military structures to NATO standards and active participation in NATO programs.

Brazauskas said the two sides also raised the question of relations between Lithuania and Russia. He said the U.S. side favored a normal relationship and a search for ways to prevent misunderstandings.

Perry will continue meeting Lithuanian leaders in Vilnius Tuesday. He is expected to sign an agreement with his Lithuanian counterpart Linas Linkevicius on information protection. A final news conference of the U.S. defense secretary is also planned.

Defense Minister Anticipates Visit

LD1911144495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Nov 19 (Interfax) — Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius said he believed that the visit of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry to Lithuania would be very important. The visit will begin on Monday evening.

"The visit will be of great importance not only for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation between the Lithuanian and U.S. defense departments but will also help to strengthen security of Lithuania and the entire Baltic region," Linkevicius told Interfax today. He said he believed that the visit would also help to speed up integration of the Baltic countries with European common security structures.

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas is expected to receive Perry on Monday evening. Perry is scheduled to meet with Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas and Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius on Tuesday.

Linkevicius said he thought that at the talks Lithuania and the U.S. would focus on NATO's enlargement and the Baltic countries' participation in this process, cooperation between Lithuania and the U.S. for control over Lithuania's airspace and the creation of a joint Baltic peace-keeping battalion.

"The Lithuanian and U.S. defence chiefs plan to sign a treaty on protecting information which is necessary for further development of cooperation between the defense departments taking into consideration possible purchases of arms and military equipment," Linkevicius said.

A press conference on the results of Perry's visit to Lithuania is to take place on Tuesday.

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